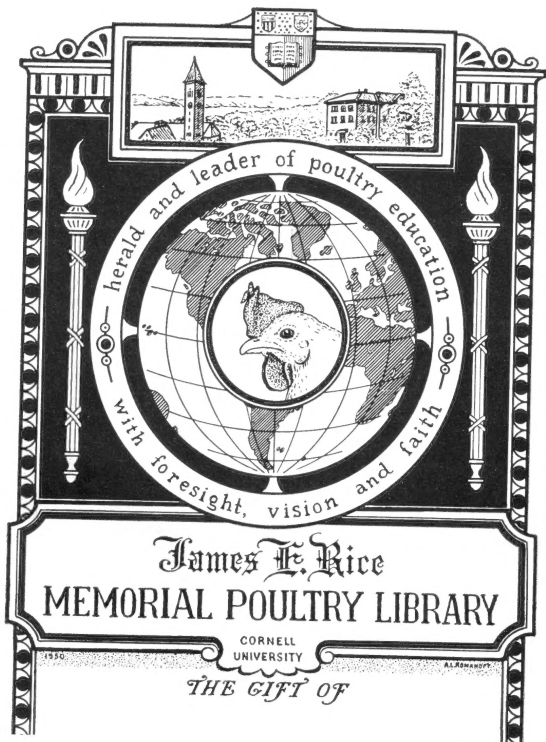


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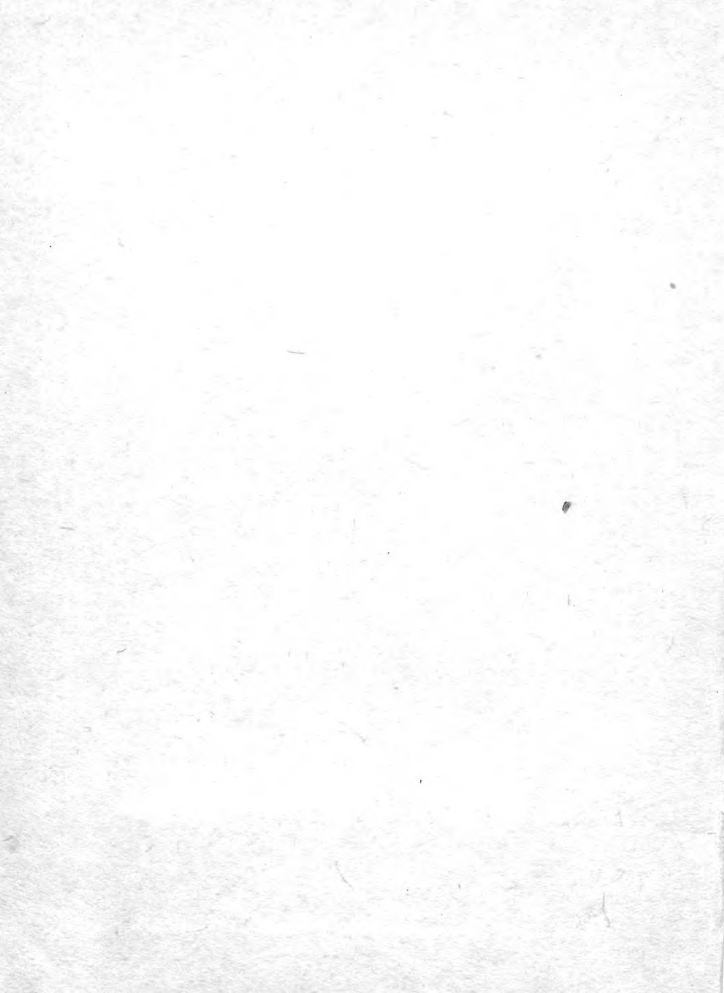
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THE
AMERICAN GAME COCK

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The Old-Fashioned Game.

—◊◊◊◊—

*A Practical Treatise on Games for
the Amateur.*

—◊◊◊◊—

How to Breed Games and How to
Heel, Feed and Train Cocks
for the Pit.

—◊◊◊◊—

*With Valuable Hints, Rules and Other Important
Information from Experienced
Breeders and Cockers.*

—◊◊◊◊—

COMPILED BY C. L. FRANCISCO.

SAYRE, PA.:
GAME FOWL MONTHLY.
1890.

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PREFACE.

In the publication of this little work on "The American Game Fowl, or the Old-Fashioned Game," the compiler from considerable experience as a breeder and publisher of the leading and favorite organ devoted to this class of sport (an instructive, interesting, practical journal, *The Game Fowl Monthly*, and associated with those of long years of experience in the game fowl culture), feels that he is giving to the amateur, breeder, fancier and cocker a book which they stand largely in need of. It has been prepared with great care and attention to all the minor and real details, and fully covers the ground of more information than any other, and is so compounded as to be easily understood, practical, useful and in short contains much information for lovers of the beautiful and gallant bird known as the "Old-Fashioned Game Fowl," containing as it does the best known rules for conditioning, heeling, treatment for all diseases and methods on mating, as well as a few chapters from the pens of those who are active to-day in the sport and are well-known. It is not intended to inform the old cocker or old breeder, but is simply compiled for the benefit of those who have not had experience and are seeking methods to follow out by practice.

GAMES AND GAMENESS.

Here we have a distinct family among the gallinaeous order, that is stated and distinct in this predominating feature—*gameness*, really the only thoroughbred among the whole feathered creation. We have here to-day the same noble characteristics, the same undaunted courage, the same majestic carriage, the same defiant bearing, and with all the same determined efforts even in the last gasp for life to retrieve the fallen fortunes of the day. This is susceptible of overwhelming proof, and if it is not a natural trait or a distinct gift of nature what then, may I ask, can it be? Not artificial, surely; if so, our forefathers from the time of Cæsar down to the present, were possessors of this one important feature in art, and have very successfully obliterated all trace of the mixture from the present age. There is no living specimen extant known at the present day that can be used as a cross on to Games where the progeny will retain this peculiar characteristic—a feature in Games that can be followed back fully

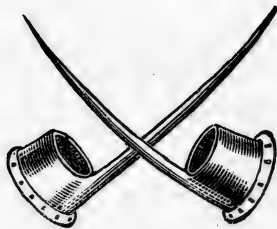
five hundred years before the Christian era, and wherein if a cross is made or any blood infused outside of the family itself this important distinctive feature is wholly lost. There is as much difference between a Gamester and a dunghill as between an eagle and a crow—a bulldog and a cur. A Game is not a dunghill, and the one thing is as plain to be seen as the other. There is a brilliancy of plumage, a clearness of feather and a certain boldness shown in a Gamecock which a dunghill is a stranger to and does not possess.

True Pit Games and Cockers are the same to-day as one hundred years ago, when the nobility of the land gave the sport their hearty support, with possibly the simple difference that side by side with the horse and other blooded animals they have kept even pace, and in bone, sinew, plumage, size and carriage are much improved, while in courage the same undaunted spirit still remains; and never during the whole history of the Game Fowl has there been so much interest taken in them as at the present day, notwithstanding the law.

No doubt is given that nature exhausted will at last succumb; but the cry is at once made that the breeder is a fraud, that the name "game" is a misnomer, and that the fancy is lost, so the whole are condemned for the shortcomings of the few.

Some will tell you that any cock in good health that quits a battle, either by sulking or running

away, is a rank dunghill. Now let us see how our theory agrees with this. Start out with a statement of facts—that there is no Game Fowl living but what can be made a dunghill, and this can be accomplished in various ways, the most common one being that of poor walking, or not walking out at all.





TYPICAL PIT COCK.

On the next page appears a true likeness of the Old-Fashioned Game Cock. Known as he was, then as now the only true specimen of *Game*. He is now well known as the American Game Cock, and after him we name this book.



COCKING.

HISTORICAL SCRAPS.

SPREAD EAGLE, GLOUCESTERSHIRE, ENG.

FROM THE GAME FOWL MONTHLY.

That sport in general has received a severe check during recent years, more especially in those branches where pluck and endurance are the predominant qualities, will be admitted on all sides, and that little regard appears to have been paid to the feeling of the English nation at large, essentially a sporting one, when the question of supporting one particular amusement has been under consideration, will, I think, be generally conceded. That this theory is not an Utopian one the rejection by the House of Lords of the Pigeon Shooting Bill, rushed through the Commons, goes far to prove, and it certainly behooves those interested in the far more important issue of boxing not to let the grass grow under their feet, or, assuredly one day, perhaps not far distant, the opponents of the art of self-defence will find as their case may be their occupation or recreation gone. Whether the cockers of fifty years ago were apathetic, or whether an overwhelming wave of

sentimentality passed over the country at that time I will not stay to enquire, but that the practice of their favorite sport, which had flourished, certainly, for the space of 2,300 years, probably much longer, was, once more, decreed illegal, can be proved by turning up the Act of Parliament bearing on the subject. Englishmen, in spite of steam and electricity, have a regard for the manners and habits of their ancestors (I am writing of Englishmen who have ancestors, not of mere upstarts and levellers), and it cannot, therefore, be matter for surprise that a selected few still cling to the Royal sport of cock-fighting. A character in "The Cornish Comedy," written by George Powell, and acted at Dorset Garden Theatre, A. D. 1696, says:—"What is a gentleman without his recreations? With them we endeavor to pass away that time which otherwise would lie heavily upon our hands. Hawks, hounds, setting dogs, and cocks are the true marks of a country gentleman." The same character goes on to state that his cocks "are true cocks of the game," on which he never risks less than £100 or £200 a battle. The author of the question, still frequently quoted, regarding a gentleman and his recreations, was, no doubt, well qualified to judge of the tastes that most distinguished a country squire in the age of which he wrote, and Strutt—no admirer of fighting in any shape or form, who undertook to describe the sports and pastimes of the English a hundred

years after "The Cornish Comedy" was written—feels compelled to admit, when alluding to a proclamation against cocking by Edward III. in the year 1366, that, notwithstanding it was thus degraded and discountenanced, it still maintained its popularity, and, in defiance of all temporary opposition, has descended to the modern times.

In dedicating the "Royal Pastime of Cocking," the most complete work hitherto published on the subject of this enthralling sport, to a descendant of Sir T. Urqhart, that valiant old cocker, who, as he expired on the fatal field of Naseby, compared himself to a good cock dying in the service of his master, the author, R. H., who wrote in 1709, makes use of the following words:—"I have also proved cocking to be both ancient and honorable, and to the present age (if rightly made use of) greatly profitable. and have plainly laid open the malice and ignorance of all such as endeavor to villify and bespatter it, showing the weakness of their arguments and true motives that engage them to speak against cocking." What R. H. wrote in the reign of Queen Anne was but a reiteration of the opinions expressed one hundred and fifty years before by Roger Ascham, the friend and tutor of Lady Jane Grey, and by Gervaise Markham, who flourished in the time of James I. On the score of antiquity, no one can gainsay the fact that "the sod" takes precedence of "the turf," for, though search be made through all the

records of Merrie England, the adopted home of the thoroughbred horse, nowhere can it be proved that racing held a place among the sports of people prior to the establishment early in the seventeenth century of the meetings at Garterly, Enfield and Croydon. Chester may be an exception, but, as mentioned hereafter, cocking was ever the favorite pursuit of the dwellers by the Dee. On the other hand, the ancient Greeks and Romans indulged in cock-fighting long before the Christian era. 471 (*Anno Mundi*) is generally quoted as the year of its introduction from Athens into Rome, and that the cock was an object of veneration before even the Greeks and Romans held sway over the civilized world the Bible teaches and recent discoveries prove. The Babylonian God, Nergal, was worshipped in the form of a cock (I do not argue that he was a "trimmed" one), who, as the Rabbins said, ushers in the morn, and that this practice was universal the discoveries of Layard abundantly show. In particular, there is a cylinder discovered by him during his visit to Babylon, and now deposited in the British Museum, on which is represented a priest in sacrificial attire, standing beside an altar on which a cock is placed. On an agate stone also a priest is represented standing before a cock. In Rome cocking was regarded partly as a religious, partly as a political institution, and, strange as it may appear, the last (or nearly so) great main ever fought in England was opposed on

political grounds. I need scarcely say that the instigators of the opposition were radicals. They, to thwart the late John Frail, and simply to avenge a party defeat, in or about 1857 gave information as to the progress of a two days' main at Shrewsbury, the stakes for which were held by that game old Tory agent.

To revert, however, to the antiquity of the sport in England, it can be proved beyond doubt (see Fritz Stephens' "Description of London") that in the reign of Henry II., Shrove Tuesday was set apart as a day on which both schoolboys and their masters, untrammelled by laws and ordinances, showed their cocks in friendly rivalry throughout the length of the land. From the days of that impetuous monarch to those of bluff King Hal, cockers had their reverses, as before mentioned. Edward III. neglected the teachings of the ancients who exhibited mains of cocks before their soldiers are engaging in battle, and prohibited their favorite pastime, but on the accession of Henry VII., who possibly from the Welsh blood flowing in his veins, was devoted to it, cocking resumed its former position, and to accommodate its patrons, the pit in Whitehall was constructed by him, Stow informs us, "out of certain old tenements." James I. was a lover of the game, and nothing to the detriment of the sport occurred until the general abolition of amusements by Cromwell, who in 1654 promulgated an edict against it.

From a careful perusal of the edict in question, I am strongly inclined to believe that the so-called Protector was actuated in his prohibition from fear of Royalists meetings being held under the figure of cock-matches, and not from any ill-feeling towards cocking itself. Whatever might have been his real intention it boots little to enquire, for within six years of the date of this declaration Oliver's resolutions were rescinded. With the restoration, the turf and the sod resumed new leases of life, and both at Newmarket and at the Royal Cockpit in St. James' Park effect was given to the natural impulse of Englishmen. Mains were fought by day and by night between the selected cocks of different countries, and although, as in racing, the records previous to the middle of the last century were not preserved, there is every reason to believe that the strains or blood in cocks were handled down in as pure a state as in the case of horses, from the cockers of the "Merry Monarch's" time to those of the Victorian era. Of the Royal Cockpit nothing now remains, the steps leading from Queen street to St. James' Park alone telling by their name, "the Cockpit steps," where the site of the historic rendezvous was. It is, however, easy for the lover of antiquities, aided by the characters drawn for him by Sadwell, and the description of the Newmarket pit by Macauley, who has left on record the fact that "on rainy days the cockpit was encircled by stars and blue ribbons," to

picture to himself the groups that frequented it for the purpose of watching the exertions of the best birds in Europe; I will not say in the world, in the case I may strike the susceptibles of the lovers of Indian game, to which breed may, without question, be accorded, if only on the ground of antiquity, most honorable mention. A curious old work on the subject gives the following description of the Cockpit Royal:—"It is situated on the south of St. James' Park, from which it has its entrance, and was erected in the reign of Charles II. who, having been himself fond of the sport, is said to have frequently honored it with his presence when matches were made and fought amongst his nobles. It is the only place where long mains and great "Subscription Matches" are fought in the metropolis, some of which are for considerable sums between opulent individuals, who procure their cocks from different parts of the country, and others (particularly of the subscription matches) by many members on each side, who breed their cocks in distant counties, but fight them only in town, of which description many matches are annually fought during all the Spring months, when both stags and cocks are in the finest feather and highest perfection. The cockpit is circular and completely surrounded with seats six tiers deep, exclusive of a rail, with standing room all around the summit of the uppermost seat, forming in the whole a perfect amphitheatre. The central

circle, upon which the cocks fight, is a raised mound of earth, surrounded with boarding, about twenty feet in diameter, and should according to the technical term of the sport be covered with a fine green turf, denominated sod, in conformity with the general acception of the word in the sporting world, whereby 'the sod' is implied cocking. In all mains or matches fought in the country part of the kingdom cocks invariably fight upon the sod, but as it is an article difficult to obtain in the metropolis, and would be inconvenient and inapplicable during hard frosty weather, when many matches are fought, matting upon the surface is substituted in its stead. On each side the circular mound, at its extremity, and exactly opposite to each other, are two small seats for the setters-to, who retire to those seats during the long fighting, or when ordered by the betters and spectators so to do. Directly over the centre is suspended from the dome by a chain a very large circular branch containing a great number of candles, affording a profusion of light—for nearly all the matches fought here are very unnaturally decided by night, the company going to pit at six o'clock in the evening. At the hour previously agreed on, the bags containing the cocks are brought into the pit by the feeders, or whoever they may appoint; they are there received by the setters-to, whose qualifications depend upon a quick eye, a light hand and an agile heel, without the whole of which celest-



rity can never be acquired in their way. The cocks being taken from the bags, are most scrupulously compared in feather and marks with the original description entered in the match-bill on the day of weighing. This ceremony gone through, the feeders retire from the centre of the pit and the setters-to are then the sole possessors, with the cocks in hand. In this state they are shown to each other, beak to beak, and if they show fight are tossed upon the mat, and the battle begins."

COCKING IN CUMBERLAND.

FROM THE CARLISLE (ENGLAND) JOURNAL.

Among the papers read at the meeting of the Cumberland and Westmoreland Archæological Society at Ulverston in May, 1888, was one by Mr. Ferguson on "Cocking," in which the Worshipful Chancellor gave some interesting particulars concerning the early history and latter-day pursuit of this ancient pastime. The fact that almost every year, about Easter time, assemblages of surreptitious cock-fighters are pounced upon by the police, indicates that the cruel sport still presents a strange fascination for certain classes of the community, who persist in indulging in their favorite though forbidden pleasure, in spite of all efforts of the law to put it down. Chancellor Ferguson, in his interesting paper, does not trouble to go into the ancient history of cock-

fighting among the Lydians, the Dardanians, the Greeks, the Romans, the Chinese, the Malaysians and the Persians. He confines his researches to cock-fighting in this country, and mainly in the country of Cumberland. The earliest treatise on cock-fighting that he has found is "The Complete Gamester" (1674), in which it is dealt with in conjunction with "The Mysteries of Riding, Racing, Archery;" and in an edition of "Hoyle's Games," dated 1814, there is an "Essay on Game-cocks," with the "Rules to be Observed at the Royal Cock-pit." At that time there was a cockpit royal in St. James' Park, but it was pulled down about 1824, on Christ's Hospital refusing to renew the lease to "a building devoted to cruelty," and a more commodious cockpit was built in Tufton street, where dog fights also took place, and badgers and bears were baited. An idea of the motley company to be seen at these places may be gathered from Hogarth's picture of the cockpit at Newmarket. It embraced peers and pickpockets, butchers and jockeys, rat-catchers and gentlemen, and gamblers of every description. The Royal Cockpit in Tufton street was one of the resorts of Jerry Hawthorn and his elegant friend, Corinthian Tom, and one of Cruikshank's pictures of Pierce Egan's "Life in London" displays those worthies backing a cock-feeder named Tommy the Sweep; while another depicts them "sporting their blunt" on "the phenomenon monkey, Jacco

Macacco, in his great fight with the twenty pound dog." In both Hogarth's and Cruikshank's pictures the birds fight on a raised circular platform, in the centre of the building. On this are the feeders, or setters. Part of the spectators crowd around the platform, while others are accommodated in a gallery, and in Hogarth's picture the shadow of a man suspended from the ceiling in a basket, shows the penalty imposed on those who did not pay their "debts of honor,"—their bets on a cock-fight. The present prevalent opinion as to the heathenishness and barbarity of cock-fighting had little sanction in those days. It had been a boy's amusement in ancient Rome, and it was in many instances in this country the sanctioned Shrove Tuesday sport of public schools, the master receiving on the occasion a small tax from the boys under the name of "cock-penny." Upon this point the Chancellor has collected some curious information. From one of his extracts (Hutchins' "History and Antiquities of Dorset") we gather that the diversion was continued in many schools of this kingdom, and in that of Wimborne in particular, until the beginning of the present century. The school was the cockpit, and the master was the controller and director of the sport. He presided and drew the names of the boys in pairs, out of a hat, much after the fashion in which the names of wrestlers are drawn, and the boys produced and fought their respective birds in rounds

until only one of the whole was left alive, "the owner of which was distinguished by the glorious name of victor." Many other privileges attached to the victor, such as "never to be subjected himself during the whole of Lent to the disgrace of flagellation; but what was still more, when any other boy was on the point of undergoing that punishment, he was at liberty, if he pleased, to exempt him from it by only clapping his hat on the culprit's posteriors, and thereby saving him from the lash." It was not only in Dorset that such customs prevailed. In Carlisle's "Endowed Grammar Schools" it is mentioned that at Wreay, in Cumberland, a silver bell (the equivalent of our more modern "challenge cup") was given by Mr. Graham, a Cavalier, in 1655, "to be fought for annually on Shrove Tuesday by cocks." The boys at the school selected two of their number as captains, and on Shrove Tuesday, after an early dinner, the two captains, attended by their friends and school-fellows, who were distinguished by blue and red ribbons, marched in procession to the village green, when each produced three cocks, and the bell was appended to the hat of the victor, in which manner it was handed down from one successful captain to another, until about the close of the last century when the boys' cock-fight on Shrove Tuesday was suspended by Wreay Hunt. The pear-shaped prize bell, weighing about an ounce and a half, was in the possession of Mr. Arlosh, of Wood-

side, until 1872, when it was lost or stolen. Mr. Ferguson thinks the chronicler was in error in supposing that public cock-fighting at Wreay stopped in 1790. It was not suppressed until 1836, and "I fancy," adds the Chancellor, "it goes on now on the sly." At Bromfield about the same time a similar custom prevailed, in association with the "barring out" of the master, one of the articles of capitulation being that the boys should have the privilege of immediately celebrating certain games of long standing, "namely, a foot-ball match and a cock-fight." The Rev. Jonathan Boucher, from whom the description of these proceedings is derived, concludes his chronicles with a half concealed sigh of regret that "it was never the fortune of the writer of this account to *bear the bell*, but he well remembers when he gazed at it with hardly less admiration than in other times others contemplated crowns and sceptres." The custom of cock-fighting was not only practiced in England, where, in the time of Elizabeth, masters were empowered to "take the profits of all such cock-fights and potations as are commonly used in schools," but it also prevailed in Scotland, where so late as 1790 "cock-fight dues" at Applecross, in Ross-shire, were "equal to one quarter's payment for each scholar."

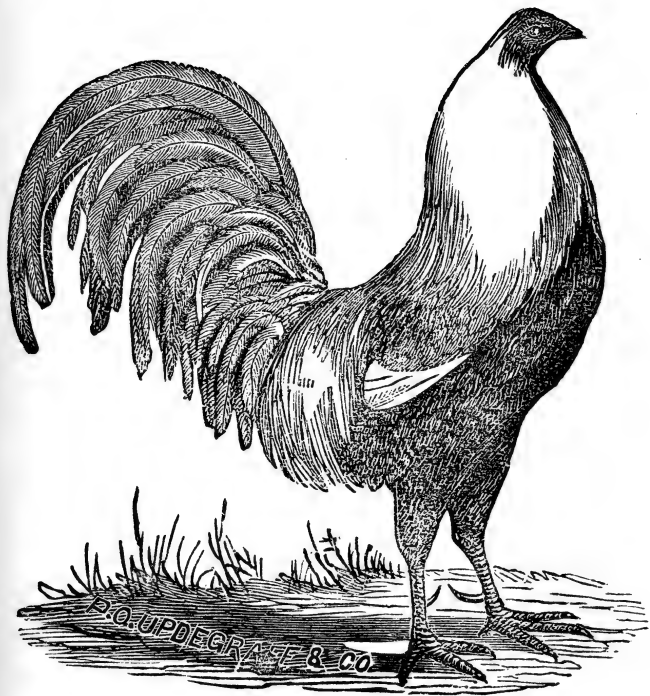
"But cock-fighting," remarks Mr. Ferguson, "had patrons of higher rank than dominies and their pupils. The cockpit at Westminster was erected by

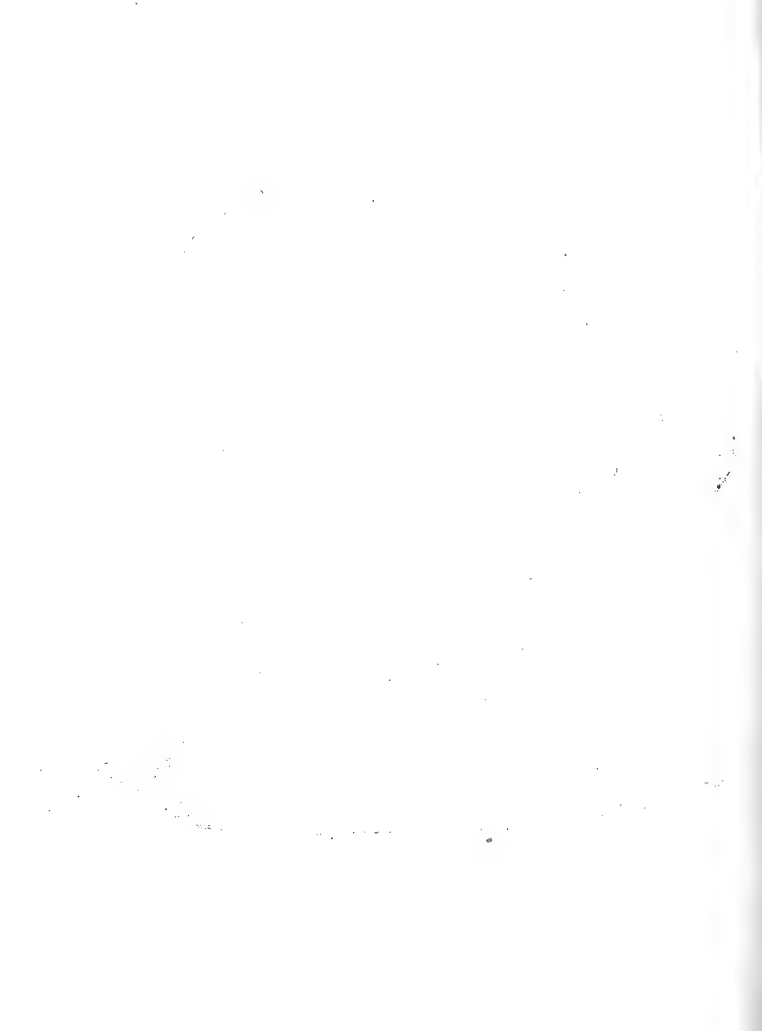
Henry VIII., and James I. was passionately fond of the sport. Foreign monarchs on their visits to this country were taken to see cock-fights." King Christian VII. of Denmark visited Newmarket cockpit in 1768 and received an address, which mentioned that his grandfather had honored the same cockpit with his presence in 1728, and had "seemed highly pleased with the courage of the British cocks." The address concluded with the inspiration, "May your Majesty's reign be long and happy, and when the infirmities of nature shall pall the relish of enjoyment, may you without pain retire to the mansions of eternal bliss (like him) replete with age and glory!" But if cock-fighting had royal patrons at Newmarket and Westminster, in Cumberland it might claim to be called an "episcopal diversion." A cockpit existed and still exists at Rose Castle, the place of the Bishop of Carlisle, and in it many mains must have been fought between the famous "black red" cocks of the Bishop's neighbors at Dalston, and the "greys" of his neighbors at Caldbeck. The Chancellor has not been able to find any evidence of any Bishop Carlisle being actually present, still, "newspaper reporters were few in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, and chaplains discreet." Perhaps it may be added that Bishop's chancellors are reticent. The cockpit at Rose is some distance from the castle, but they occupied in some places even more unseemly places than the episcopal *pleasaunces*.

They were frequently close to the church, if not actually in the church yard, and the cocks were fought on Sundays, notably at Bromfield and Burgh-by-Sands. The late Mr. Joseph Ferguson used to tell how, as a boy, he had heard in church at Burgh-by-Sands the preacher's voice drowned by the vociferations of the "gentlemen of the sod," as the cockers were called, crying the odds. To do them justice they generally waited until the preacher was finished, but if he was on any occasion extra long-winded their patience fell short and they commenced. Walker, in his history of Penrith, says the cockpit in that town was on the south side of the churchyard, "and on one occasion when the clergyman was reading the burial service his voice was totally drowned by loud cheers from the pits in token of the victory of the favorite cock." This was not peculiar to the north of England, as Mr. Ferguson showed by an extract from a paper by a Herefordshire incumbent, who, contrasting the degeneracy of the present time, exclaims, "Oh! people did come to church in them days!" Perhaps, suggests Mr. Ferguson, the "gentlemen of the sod," who fought their mains on Sunday in a churchyard, may have had some qualms of conscience to gulp down. If any such existed at Alston, in Cumberland, the maxim of the end justifying the means would be used for their alleviation for their Prayer Books, with "inscription suitable to the occasion," (whatever

those might be) were the prizes for the winners of mains on Shrove Tuesday; but none of these trophies can be found now, as the Governors of Greenwich Hospital carried off as curiosities all they could find. Such a prize system might have afforded some excuse to the old woman at Houghton, near Carlisle, who on one occasion admitted "she had gone down upon her bended knees" and prayed that a certain cock of her feeding might win at Newcastle.

The citizens of Carlisle, with the example before them of a cockpit at Rose Castle, were by no means behind in their devotion to the sport, as the minutes of the Town Council in 1861 prove, when they ordered sums of money to be given in "cock-plates," or "plates to be fought for by cocks,"—probably challenge plates to replace older ones, which had disappeared after the great siege of 1644, and history relates little or nothing of the cock-fights that in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries were waged in the Border City. But in the eighteenth century cock-fighting had become everywhere an established concomitant of horse-racing, as Mr. Ferguson showed by several extracts and references to racing calendars and other chronicles of the times. In 1783, during the races, a main of cocks was fought between the Earl of Surrey and A. R. Bowes, Esq., for ten guineas a battle and one hundred guineas the main, which was won by the latter. The Earl of Surrey, who was M. P. for Carlisle in 1780, and af-





terwards became Duke of Norfolk, was so slovenly in his dress that on one occasion he was taken at the royal cockpit for a butcher, and his bets refused. It is said that the Earl of Surrey and Sir James Lowther in 1785 erected the cockpit which recently, until 1886, stood in a court on the west side of Lowther street, Carlisle. As it is so odd that these two political opponents should combine to do anything, Mr. Ferguson suggests that they each give a handsome subscription "by way of influencing the cock-fighting interest at some elections." That cockpit was octagonal, forty feet in diameter, the walls twelve feet high, and it was forty-five feet in height to the top of the octagonal roof. In 1829 it was occupied by Messrs. Burgess and Hayton as a brass and iron foundry, and afterwards was well known as Dand's smithy. As an illustration of the sport, Mr. Ferguson exhibited a gamecock called Achilles, trimmed and spurred for fighting, and some of the spurs used in cock-fighting. The spur was a single polished spike or goad of silver or steel, about an inch and a half long, slightly curved, having a ring which fitted upon the stump of the natural spur and was provided with a leather which was lashed around the bird's leg; but he said there were spurs sold now as "cock spurs," three inches in length, which "would not have been tolerated in a respectable cockpit." There was great art in putting on the spurs. The gamecock's object in fighting is to seize his foe by

the hackle, hold him down, and to spur him on the head. To do this he must kick or spur close past his own head, and hence if the spur be not set at the proper angle is apt to dig it into his own head. Much has been said about the additional cruelty of fighting cocks in artificial spurs, but Chancellor Ferguson thinks this is an injustice, because silver spurs such as he exhibited inflicted clean wounds which would heal in three or four days, whereas the natural spur inflicted bruised wounds, which are slow to heal. The silver spur, too, kills at once if it enters the brain, while the natural spur bruises and inflicts a lingering death. The gamecock's habit of seizing his adversary by the hackle is the reason why it was always stipulated that cocks were to fight "with a fair hackle,"—that is, it must not be so trimmed away as to afford no hold.

Cock-fighting was made a misdemeanor in 1835, but it was hard to kill. Ther was a main fought at Raffles in 1842, the "setters" being "Dick" and "Davy;" there was another at the Dandie Dinmont in 1846, a coach and pair taking the sportsmen out from Carlisle, "Dick, the Daisy," being one of the "setters" on that occasion; and within the last ten years, Mr. Ferguson states, a gentleman in Carlisle (now dead) kept his cocks in a sodded attic in his house and fought them within the city; while in Newcastle a well-known knight, alderman and magistrate, who died in 1871, had a cockpit at the back

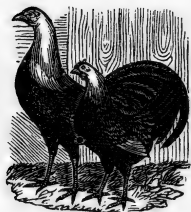
of his house where frequent fights took place, and one of my Lords, the Queen's Justices, was a frequent spectator. "Cocking," adds the Chancellor, "goes on to this day to a great extent in the northern counties, but I must not say where." A local patron of the sport in the time of Dick Bailey (Dick died about twenty years ago) has furnished Mr. Ferguson with some interesting particulars of the training of cocks for battle. In a letter dated April of this year he says:

"Now these cocks were taken from their walks say to-day, Friday, and fought about Monday or Tuesday week. Say the cock was five pounds weight, or a little under; at the time he was taken up he would fight four pounds four ounces or so. On the first part of their training was to cut a little off their wings and tail, give them some tea to drink until, say Tuesday; cut their spurs short, and spar them every day with small boxing gloves tied on their heels. On Tuesday they got their medicine—the very best Turkish rhubarb and magnesia, about the thickness of your first finger, in fact, more than would quickly operate on you or me; next day senna tea again and sparring. They get very much reduced on Friday—all the fat out of them; after that give them new milk and bread made of eggs, loaf sugar, etc., in fact everything that is good—the very best malt barley and so on. You would be astonished how they throve each day after. For the old

cockpit they used to feed at different public houses; one was in Pack Horse Lane, another in the Castle Lane, in fact all the lanes in English street, Carlisle. They fought single battles for £5 or £10 and what they called four mains, that is four cocks; of course the winner had to get two battles.

“In Cumberland the old connection between education and cock-fighting is not yet wholly severed,” remarked Mr. Ferguson in concluding his interesting paper, “the seal of the Dalson School Board displays a fighting-cock—a Dalson ‘black red’—but they omitted the ringing motto, ‘While I live I crow.’”







Exhibition Game.



Pit Game.

THE TWO KINDS.

EXHIBITION AND PIT.

The Game fowls of America may be distinctly divided into two classes—Pit or True Game birds; second, the Standard or Exhibition Games.

Pit Games, as the name implies, are raised mostly for the pit, and consequently are bred with the qualities best adapted to this use, viz:—gameness, activity, endurance and muscle. Since the flesh or meat which we eat is the muscular part of the chicken's carcass, that fowl which is the most muscular has the finest quality of flesh, and proportionately the most of it. For this reason Pit Games excel all other chickens for table use. But the fancier who buys them for this purpose may not know that pit birds are not bred to color.

A person not well informed in chicken lore, wishing some extra fine fighting stock, looks through the columns of a poultry journal and notes those breeders who won the prizes on standard Games at the

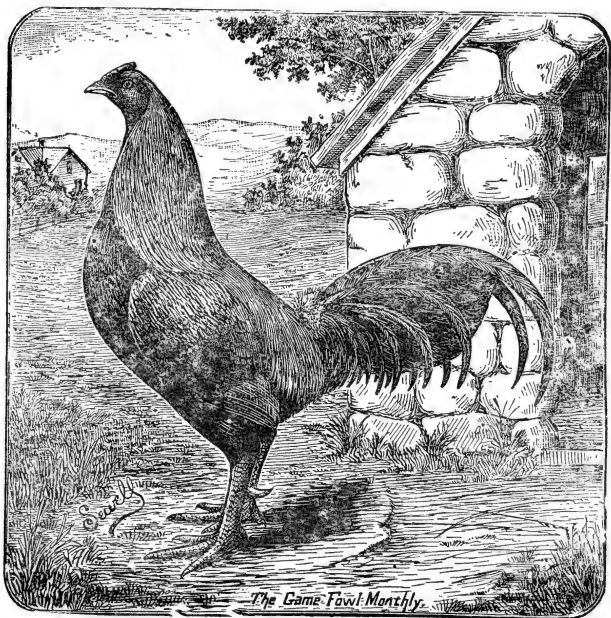
leading shows; naturally supposing that since the highest scoring birds of other breeds are in their respective qualities the best, so also the prize winning standard Games must excel as fighting birds.

Now, to the amateur readers of this book let us say a few words. Find out well what you want before you buy.

The standard Games breed true to color, and their fanciers claim that in beauty and "stately bearing" they excel the pit birds; but they are not dead game and are neither constituted nor intended for pit use. The cock on the left shows well the characteristics of the class, viz: upright carriage, long legs, long neck and head, small whip tail, extended wing-butts, short hackle, short and hard body feathers.

The other cock may be taken as a typical pit bird. Observe that he is low stationed and heavily feathered, with full hackle and tail, short head, and altogether stout in build and above all he is dead game.

Color has but little to do with the Pit Game, and the name is of little use unless it is a distinguished strain long known under one name.



GENERAL FORM.

THE PIT GAME.

A good old-fashioned Game cock has eyes large and full, sparkling with brightness, boldness in appearance, possesses activeness, quick to observe a motion, and displays force in all his proportions. The general outline of a cock must be governed by the selection of your eye, but the usual type sought for is one thing throughout—a full well-developed bird of good station; the general type of body is cone-shaped, rather longer than thick, but not too extreme for body. The head should be fair size, not large or coarse, full and clean; eyes well set, not hollowed out at upper and lower bearings; the beak short, stout, well curved and pointed; the neck long, strong, well arched and good size at the junction of the head, well developed at the base or where it joins the body; the girth or breast large and full; broad, flat and deep full chest, tapering to the rump with breast bone close up to the saddle bone; shoul-

der broad and full; round back tapering smoothly to the rear; back medium length; thighs and legs large, smooth, strong and well put together; large bone and muscle, broad, thin feet, long claws; hind toe set well down; wings full, large and carried well up, tapering to rear and almost meeting at tips, not lying close; quills large and stiff; tail carried upright, not over back, full, well expanded, and quills large and stiff, with full, large, long sickle feathers, handsomely curved; the feathers of the body should possess a glossy appearance, and be strong and stiff to the touch. Bird should have a stately walk and an upright, easy carriage.

Hens should be well developed, large and active, having same general outline of head, beak and eyes of cock; body long and plump; broad, full tail; good carriage action and fearless; large legs of medium length; feet and claws long and flat, full of life.

BREEDING STOCK.

HENS AND COCKS.

Hens are of little consequence, judging from the demand for pullets in preference to them. Of the numerous enquiries for high class breeders, not one in fifty wants hens, and this is the rock that has stranded many enthusiastic beginners. Such a line of breeding will deteriorate, rather than improve, applied to any class of stock.

The teaching of science and experience is that mature animals of all kinds will produce the best, strongest and most vigorous offspring; yet breeders seem to have gone crazy over pullet-breeding, ignoring the teachings of science, nature and common sense. This is because pullets will usually lay more eggs than hens. How can any improvement come from such a practice?

Now long experience in breeding has taught the value of old hens as breeders. When one has proved to be valuable as a breeder, just keep her three or

four years at least; and usually when chicks are raised that show signs of making superior birds, by tracing their origin it is found that they were hatched from eggs laid by hens. Our advice to beginners is to be sure and have some good hens in their breeding yards, and mark their eggs and compare them with the stock from pullets, and see if we are not right.

We often find in the yards of some of our noted breeders an old hen, age unknown, only by a brief recollection of five or six years, feathers out of sorts, matched to a favorite cock, and the offspring are the high priced birds which prove themselves valuable. Good old birds can be relied upon for strong and healthy stags, rapid fighters and game to the core as long as they remain healthy.

It is asserted, and doubtless it is true, "that fowls transmit to their offspring the color of the sire or dam, and in exact ration to the propotency of each." And it must be apparent that as a rule the cock possesses a preponderance of vital force as compared with hens, and his strong powers transmit his color to his offspring. Therefore the selection and management of the breeding cock is of great importance to the breeder. His color and constitution should be of the best, and in addition he should be supplied with the best of chicken fare; and he must not be overtaxed by being yarded with too many hens, if you expect a lot of fine chicks. If your choice be

one of sluggish movement but bearing the color desired, mate him to less hens and those with plenty of life.

BREEDING "IN AND IN."

This subject is of the greatest importance, and attracts attention from all good breeders. It is not unusual to find in the possession of some a breed of fowls formerly esteemed for gameness and fighting qualities, but having been bred "in and in" for a number of years, they have become sickly, show a decided lack of courage, small in leg, bone and muscle, and are given up as utterly worthless; consequently it is necessary that a fresh strain of blood be introduced from time to time to avoid these injurious results; but it is by no means essential to make use of other than the particular species for such change of blood. When, as advised, new breeders are introduced, the progeny will have larger bone and muscle, greater and more determined courage, and will be distinguished for activity and willingness to force the fight.

BY PERRY GULL.

In-breeding demands some certain and reliable proof for or against the practice, as experience has established the truth. I am not prepared to condemn or approve the practice, but will say before going further, one to in-breed to any great extent

must do so with great caution. Many are and have been writing in its favor, and are giving good evidence for its practice, in proper hands; and, too, many are writing against its practice, giving just as good arguments on the other side of the question.

This question often comes up: Has in-breeding been a benefit or a curse? I am not prepared to answer, because I am not able to say what the result would have been if in-breeding had never been resorted to.

I believe, though, had it been possible to have procured the proper matings, without having resorted to in-breeding, our domestic animals and fowls would be far advanced from what they are to-day. It was far cheaper to in-breed than to procure the proper mate, is our reason of its practice to-day. It is not because of the better results obtained, but its cheapness for the time being.

Do not understand me to say that I am in favor of introducing new blood into the flock each year, for that is hardly practicable, unless you knew the blood of the fowls you were breeding into your yard, and was sure no bad would result from it. One can breed from his own yard for a few generations, without exactly breeding in and in. If you must introduce new blood, introduce the female. By so doing you will not be so apt to spoil your male line; that is, if you have a male line; if you have not it is time you were making an effort to establish one; for you

will never be able to breed poultry to any certainty without one.

What I mean by a male line is, male that is sure to reproduce himself in his offspring. Establish a male strain if you are compelled to breed in and in to do so, with plenty of good hard sense.

Of course, continual in-breeding draws, degenerates and depresses the vital forces, and, therefore, is wrong. But when the purpose is to produce identity of type, as it is reproduced in pure bred stock, it is about the only possible process by which it can be done.

I will breed in and in before I will introduce a fowl into my breeding pens that I do not know the strain of.

When a breeder of fowls says that he does not breed in and in, but introduces new blood every year, and that he ships fowl that are not akin, tell him—well, if he is not too large, and does not carry a gun, and will promise not to shoot, tell him he lies! If any breeder will introduce new blood into his flock every year, and does not subdue the new blood before he breeds from it, to sell the increase as fancy fowls, he should be drummed out of the fraternity, because he is not able to tell what the offspring will be in the mating of two different strains, bred for different results.

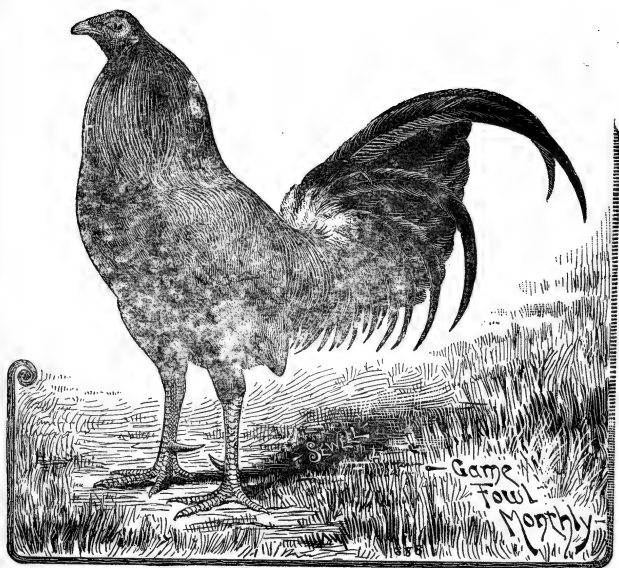
Any breeder that has a well-established male line is making a mistake if he breeds out of that line. It

will be a few years work for him lost.

In keeping the male side of the house I know of no way of doing so, only by in and in breeding. So far I believe in it, and no farther.

BREEDING FOR THE PIT.

Select a well-tried and thoroughly tested cock from some strain, mate to him from four to six hens of equally as well tried merit. Never breed from a hen unless you know she throws good fighting stock, no matter how game she may be. After you have your yard, and you wish to introduce fresh blood, do so by taking a cock or stag and mating to one of the hens and trying out the progeny; if the cross proves good you have now a new fusion of blood to use, or you can mate the brood cock to a hen in like manner and try out the progeny the same. Never add a hen to your yard unless you know her blood and breeding; and moreover, if she be a cross with the brood cock, by this means you avoid breeding a worthless lot of dunghills, or "pot" stock. One thing hard to do, is to buy all hens; pullets are always plenty. Most of our cockers from long experience breed old hens to stags and cocks to pullets, thus procuring better chicks than by mating of equal ages. In selecting a brood cock choose one weighing not less than six pounds, and when in hand he should be wiry, lively and full of motion—a "gab-



bler" or talker from the start, talking and chattering all the time, with his legs drawn up close to his body or against your hands, and possess a nowadays fearless appearance. We prefer a medium station, while others proclaim all for the high station. Some compound high station anything that can stand on the floor (like the Malay Game) and eat off the head of a barrel. The hens should handle like the cock. Much favor is given a cock with a short, shrill, clear crow. If a cock dislikes a hen she should be removed from the yard, as it tends to trouble, and all the hens will soon turn on her. When a hen begins to cluck discard all eggs laid after she shows signs of clucking, and the last one before these symptoms come on. Thus you avoid small, worthless runts. Ascertain by reading *The Game Fowl Monthly* what are the most popular and most successful strains of Pit Games. Remember that any pit cock is worthless that is not a good fighter and dead game.

Then when you have decided upon the strain you want to breed you should exercise good judgment in buying stock. Find if you can a breeder who makes a specialty of the strain you want. Do not try to "Jew" him down in price. Tell him what you want the fowl for and leave the selection to him. Some prefer to start with birds, some prefer to begin with eggs. Now there is but little choice. Probably the birds would be the cheaper in the end, but some who are not able to pay \$15 for a trio of breeders are able

to pay \$3 for a setting of eggs, and must wait a year for a stock. An honorable dealer will send you just what he agrees to whether you buy eggs or fowl; a dishonorable dealer will cheat just as soon on fowls as on eggs.

When you order *pit* stock do not expect *Standard Games* nor anything that resembles a *Standard Game* in shape.

CARE OF BREEDING STOCK.

Breeding stock should be in the best of feather and health, as it is a well-known fact that breeding from diseased fowls results in the offsprings being of weak and sickly constitutions, small bone, low headed and with undeveloped muscles.

Great care must be exercised in and about the breeding pen. No other cock than the one you wish stock from must be allowed with the hens. If your hens have been mated to any poor blood or dunghill you must purge them from the clutch of eggs and not use them until after they have returned from the cluck. In this way you will succeed in raising just what you desire from the pen. Some say that only three or four eggs is all you need discard. This may answer in many cases, but we caution one and all against any such advice. Nothing does us only the eggs laid after the hen has returned from the cluck and then mated with the desired cock. If it is crosses you are after, then pursue the method most

easily known, by putting together all the varieties you choose.

Game fowls, being very hardy, will thrive in the smallest runs and spaces, although a good grass run in the country suits them best; but we find them owned in large cities with very small yard, and there thrive and do well. This will show them to be of a strong constitution and less subject to disease than other poultry. One of the most essential requirements is proper ventilation in the pens, plenty of light in their roosting places with ventilation at the top, and the house kept perfectly dry and clean. The perches should be low down and proper size; the nest boxes should be made large, supplied with clean straw, and a nest for each hen, as then they will not disturb each other.

Keep your breeding hens tame so you will have no trouble in handling them, and in this way you will find eggs hatch well and the chick that come will be strong and healthy.

TIME TO MATE BREEDING PEN.

The breeders for the breeding pen should be placed together by the middle or first of February, and by so doing the eggs may be saved by the first or middle of March, providing your hens have been in no other company than the game cock with which you are to mate or stock of his get.

FEEDING BREEDERS.

Too much attention cannot be paid to the game fowl. The food should be considerably varied. Oftentimes, for the want of animal food, hens will pick the feathers from each other and eat them. This can be, in a great measure, prevented by getting once a week meat scraps from the market and give to them. With some it is a habit, and is learned while sitting on the roost during the cold or stormy weather, and is often a great source of annoyance to breeders. This habit is found more among game fowls than other variety, and often is killed a favor-brood hen in order to save the breeding cocks.

Feed often but never too much; over-fat fowls are more liable to disease than those in a growing condition. Fowls for breeding should not be fed on fat-producing food continually, but only in quantities sufficient to keep the physical forces in good condition; and we should furnish such kinds as will compensate for the loss of green and insect food which they procure in summer. Grass, gravel and old plaster, corn, wheat and oats mixed, or in alternate feedings, should be on the bill of fare. If in winter or confined in small yard, supply the fowls with meat scraps and cabbage leaves to take the place of the animal and grass substance, and avoid much danger of unhealthy fowls. Sweet apples and raw onions are relished in the winter. In the spring season potato peelings are a substance to promote

egg production, and will be heartily eaten if prepared in small bits. Have a water vessel within their reach, and keep in it an old rusty bit of iron; thus you are freed from changing water as often as if left pure.

In the egg season be very particular to mark each egg when picked up, day and date, and if necessary from hen laid, that you may know what you are doing and what the stock is out of when hatched. The careful and successful cocker can tell you just to a chick from what parents and when hatched simply by means of his note-book, and this is the only successful way to breed games.

SETTING HENS.

Never use a large dunghill hen to set and rear the game chicks; by all means get a light-weight hen. Game hens are best, as they will hatch more chicks than any dunghill, and they rear them with less trouble. The game hen will clean out cats, rats and weasels, and if liberated will search for insects for her young, while the dunghill will hardly squall. Never put more than thirteen eggs under a hen; eleven in the end will prove more successful to you, yet thirteen is the average number used. If the hen is setting on a dry place like a straw pile or hay, or in shavings, we give the eggs a sprinkling with tepid water on or about the seventh, fifteenth and twentieth days, to moisten the shell that the chicks may

break them easily. If the hen has liberty to all kinds of weather the sprinkling on the twentieth day is all that is necessary, as the hen will furnish plenty of moisture through the course of incubation.

In all cases we protest against raising the Pit Game chick in the patent incubator, as they develop so rapidly the joints are loose and the snug, solid-built Game is a total failure. Having had experience in this line, we know from whence we speak—quality is lost by so doing.

REARING YOUNG GAMES.

A Game chick that is worth raising at all will be worth from five to ten dollars at ten months of age, and should be properly reared to produce all the strength, with that idea and price considered. No time nor pains should be spared to give them the very best care through the days of chickenhood and furnish them with just the proper amount of the best of food. Some have an idea that anything is good enough to feed chickens—sweet, sour, moldy or musty and at any age. This is a mistaken idea, to say the least; it is not in accordance with all things. Feed well and sparingly and note the result.

You may often find chicks coming from good yards bearing marks of being fine and pure bred, and have little life, being on the lookout for every motion made, in many cases because of poor and spare feeding in youth making cowards, caused by the large

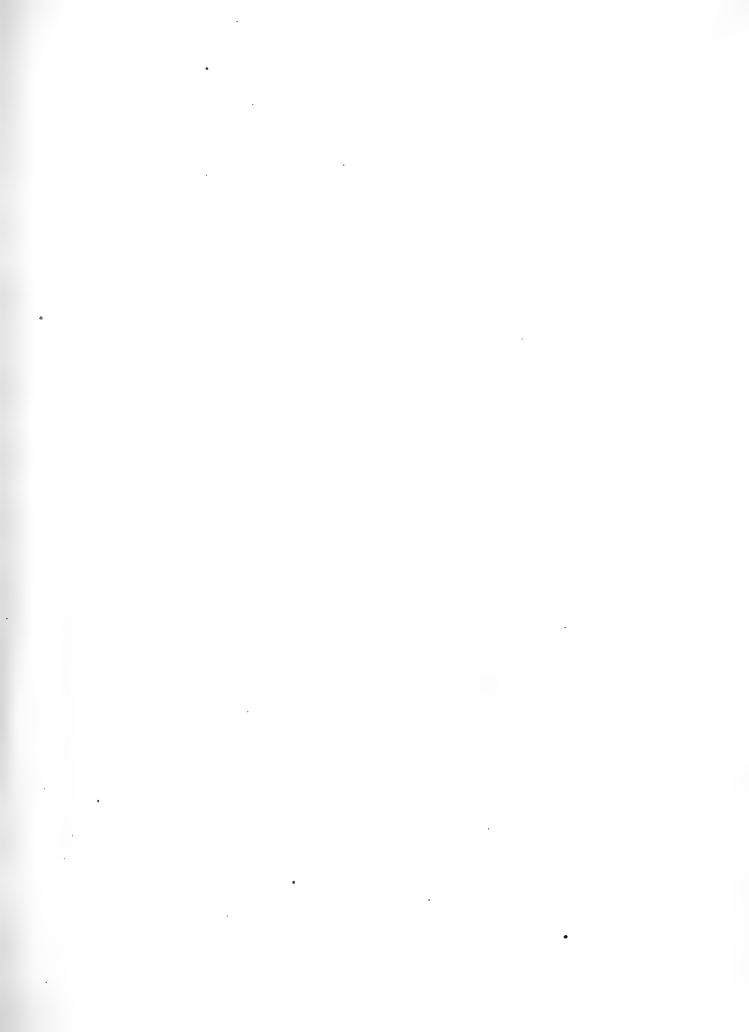
birds while picking up feed. Take these birds and place them on a walk for months and seldom will they forget that cowardice, permanently stamped. In many instances the bird fresh to the pit from the walk will show up well in the first contest, though a coward when a chick. Now that this once a chick has won a battle, and the owner, knowing nothing of the care when young, has placed great confidence in his bird. From thus on the bird recalls old thoughts that prove him a coward simply because of poor feed and treatment when a chick.

Young Game chicks feather very rapidly from the first, and this growth of feathers makes meat an essential part of the food. We prefer to feed small bone scraps from the market, uncooked.

When the chicks commence coming from the shells take from the nest at night all the loose shells and give the little ones better quarters. Do not be in a hurry to remove the brood from the nest; allow them to remain all of eighteen to twenty-four hours after they are hatched, as they will not need any food for the first twenty-four hours, and at that time very little. Feed at first a few moistened bread crumbs or the yolk of hard boiled eggs; feed sparingly and often. Give no water for the first three to six days, if weather is mild, and then you had better use milk if possible. Continue the stale bread for several days, gradually mixing in pure fine cracked wheat. During this time have your

hen moved with brood to a suitable coop, and if early in spring place a board in under coop with at least an inch of as dry dirt as you can easily obtain. Feed the hen plenty and well at time of hatching, and after that she may keep quiet, giving the chicks all the rest they need, as they do but little exercising for the first three days after being hatched. By no means put a board under a coop without covering, as it will make crooked toes. Keep the droppings cleaned from the coop once a day, and add a little fresh earth then on the board.

Use good judgment about cleanliness and all the fussing will be returned in the end. We feed nothing but cracked wheat and scraps from the table; after they are one week old occasionally get raw bone scraps from the market. Keep the hen cooped all of the time for about six weeks, and then allow her to roam during the day, after the dew has risen. If you cannot locate your coop near a shade to make protection from the afternoon sun, drive down a couple of stakes and form a sun shelter or wind breaker by laying on a few boards. It makes a play ground for them and shelter in rainy weather. Avoid their going to roost if possible until they are three months old, or four months if possible. When removed to larger coops keep the floors covered with plenty of soft, clean straw or chaff that they sit on, as they grow faster if kept warm and dry and free from the damp air of night. Give but little water in





the extreme heat of the day. A better way is to put the water in the shade a little distance from the coop and let them find it when dry, for if left at the coop they will drink every time they come near the old hen at the demand of a cluck. Too much water will cause a sticky, nasty vent or scours which in many cases kills the affected.

CARE OF EGGS.

Gather daily, washing the soiled ones, and if to be used within two or three days place them in a cool room. If you wish to keep them longer than this, or to set a hen with them, put them into baskets, in which first place about two inches of bran, packing them closely, and with the larger end down. The philosophy is this: The air-cell in the larger end of the egg enlarges when the egg is laid away. If the butt end is up, the evaporation of moisture is greater, and the pressure of air through the open pores at the end rapidly increases the size of the bubble. If the butt end is down, the weight of the liquid contents pressing down on the bubble hinders the entrance of air, allowing only a very slow and gradual increase in the size of the air cell.

POWER OF SEX.

FROM EXPERIENCE.

Some time ago it was the good luck of the writer to own a pure black hen, and her progeny when mated with the old game rooster never lacked for pure black marking like the mother. But alas! there came a change; the old hen escaped from the yard of safety and met a white leghorn cock which was up to devilishness and laid chase to capture her by the top of the head and so he did—in spite of clubs and stones he got there just the same. The old hen was finally captured and put back in the yard, and the egg of each day for a week was cast aside for cooking purposes, and then her old mate allowed freedom with her. The eggs afterwards were saved without the least hesitation or thought of anything but their being pure, as we had read such reports, that even the third egg was pure—but after seventeen had been laid the old hen proposed to incubate, and so she did, having left her fifteen eggs. She

did the duty, and good it was, for she brought out fifteen bright looking infant chicks—in fact too bright as it resulted.

When I took a look at the nest full at first it struck me—who the devil changed the eggs, taking old black's and leaving dunghills in place? There were only three of them that bore the markings of old black as in past years, many of them having too much white on the head—ye gods! yellow legs!

Having read that the fourth egg was positively good and would not be fertile unless a rooster had been with her, I could not think otherwise than it was true, and the faulty chicks might color up like the old hen.

Time passed on and the fifteen were reduced to twelve, but not any too soon if it had been down to one as far as quality of gameness. When early fall came instead of having a dozen fine-looking, plump black game chicks, I had that number of spangles or splashed games with leghorn feathers and comb. Very handsome they were, for the pure white showed off well with the pure black, and the rosy red high combs did make a lusty appearance. Having no doubt of quality and gameness, on the eventful day known as the 25th of December I matched one for a month's wages, not as a runner, but a fighter, and backed as dead game, knowing it to be the result of old black's stock. But to my regret, there were but eleven months in my year and thirteen for my op-

ponent. The long and in fact the short of the thing was the spangle-yellow-legged-high-combed-dunghill proved a racer and a good one, for it took six men and a whiffet dog to catch him in a tight room.

When I produced the spangle his color elicited a number of remarks and considerable anxiety as to where I got the stock, not even dreaming that it was one of old black's stags. Neither were they any the wiser afterward.

The balance of the flock were walked—into the kitchen direct; and I was out of the game business for a year.

This single connection with a dunghill thoroughly convinced me that I did not want to hatch out any game eggs for pit use from a hen that had ever met with such a misfortune, unless she has turned broody after she be mated with the desired cock and kept with him only during the time of saving eggs.

THE SEX BY EGGS.

It has been found by careful experiments by various breeders that the eggs set in the early season and the fore part of the clutch will produce more stags or cockerels than those of the last or latter part of the season. For instance, your hens commence laying in early March and April, your best stags and seventy per cent. of the hatch will be males, while the chicks hatched from the eggs laid in May and June will be a greater per cent. pullets.

SICK FOWLS.

ROUP.

The first symptom is a peculiarity in the breathing; the skin attached to the wattle begins to rise and fall—afterward a whooping sound in the throat and fetid discharge from the nose. This disease is contagious, and is produced in many instances by cold, damp and windy weather. As soon as a fowl shows symptoms of roup, separate it from the rest, and put it in a warm box or barrel with straw or hay in the bottom. Bathe the head and throat with warm salted water, after which, with thumb and forefinger, open the eye, and with the end of a rag saturated with the salted warm water wash it well.

PACKED CROPS.

It is often seen a hen or cock in the breeding yard dumping around not offering to pick up its rations with its mates, and on investigation its crop is found packed hard and rather feverish. This is not a dangerous ailment always, if not treated, but one sim-

ple and easy treatment sets all things right again. Take one tablespoonful of pure linseed, castor, or sweet oil and pour down the chick's throat. After it is well swallowed work the crop carefully with the fingers, which will mix the oil through the hard packed substance. Some times a second treatment is needed.

FROSTED COMBS.

If the fowl is discovered before the comb wattles, or toes have thawed out, hold them entirely covered with snow, or in ice cold water, until the frost is entirely gone. Then keep them thoroughly oiled with glycerine. Do not allow them to become hard and dry, but keep them soft, and they will lose but a small part of the frozen members, and in many cases the toes can be saved entire. But if the frost has disappeared before a remedy is applied, all that can be done will be to keep the frozen parts from drying up, by frequent applications of glycerine.

SCALY LEGS.

Scaly legs or "scab" is the work of a minute parasite, and is easily removed. There are preparations advertised for the purpose, but home-made remedies will serve to eradicate it, and such can be made cheaply. One plan is to mix a teaspoonful of coal oil with half an ounce of lard, and rub it well into the legs. Do this twice a week for two weeks, and

the legs will be clean. The coal oil changes the color to a white for a little while on some fowls, but, if preferred, a tablespoonful of sulphur may be mixed with the lard instead of the coal oil, which will remove the scales without discoloration, but neither remedy should be used in damp weather.

Two or three applications of lard and sulphur, in equal parts, applied thoroughly, will affect a cure in all cases. Sweet oil and turpentine thoroughly applied is another good remedy.

CANKER AND TREATMENT.

Canker is a very troublesome and unsightly disease to which game fowls are largely, and all other domestic birds more or less liable at certain seasons of the year, and under certain circumstances. Game cocks will contract canker from going through their "exercise" in the hands of their trainers, when they are allowed to spar with each other, while preparing for future use in the pit. The handler puts two young stags beak to beak to test their courage—after muffling their spurs, so that serious injury can not be done to either during their sparring practice—and they peck at each other's heads, wounding the cheeks and edges of the mandible, often, in this way. The sores thus created subsequently fester and canker ensues.

In a similar way older game cocks, after fighting a battle or two, have their heads and beaks lacerated

in the contest; and without extra care afterwards, these wounds show canker, especially if the bird takes cold about this time.

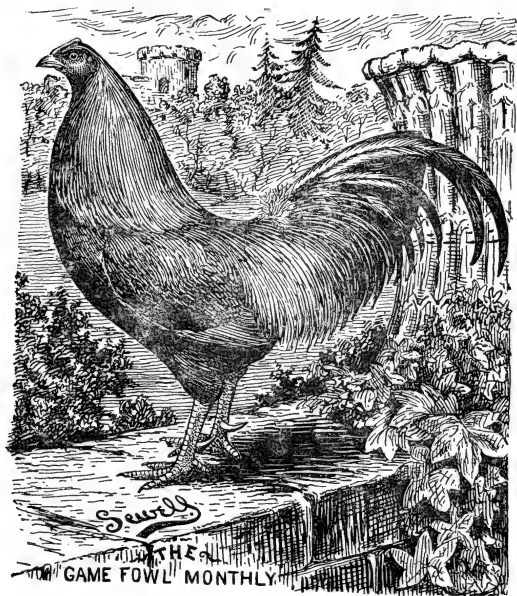
When new hens are purchased and placed among the old flock of adults they will quarrel, and in this way cause sores about the heads and bills of each other, which will ripen in cold weather to canker.

Numerous other instances are complained of by purchasers of fowls, who discover soon after the birds arrive at their new homes that this affection shows itself. And if these diseased fowls go through the brush with others in their new quarters, the canker is communicated to many of the flock, which sometimes proves a very serious matter.

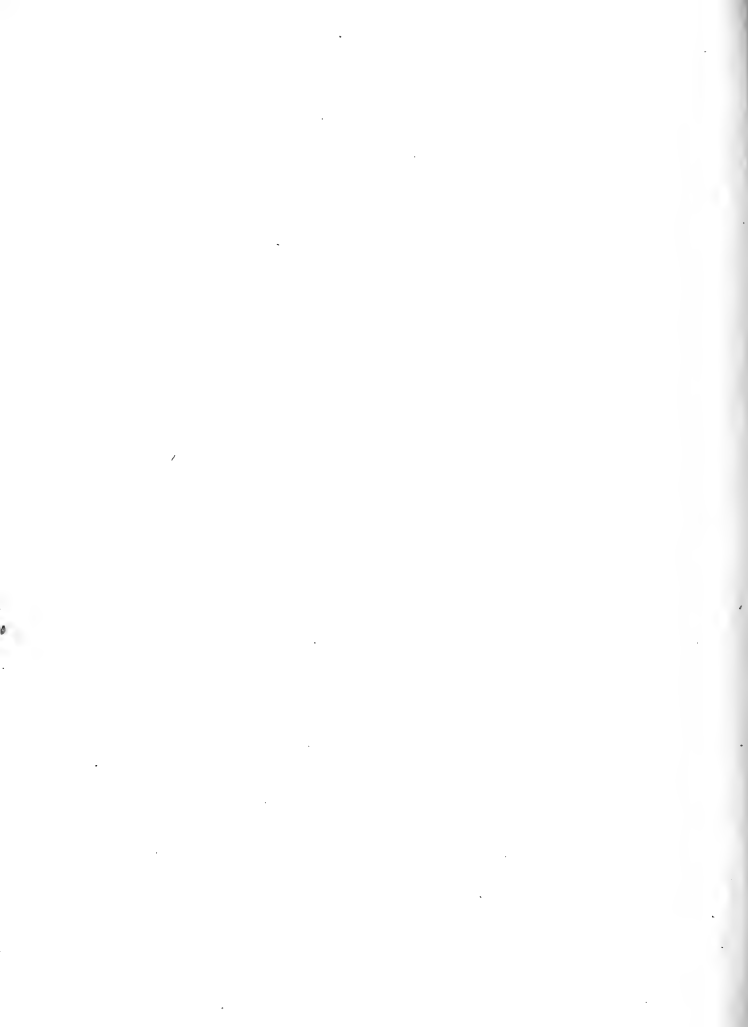
There is no need that this disorder should prove fatal in its character, however. It is as easily remedied as is any ail common to poultry. But it must never be left to cure itself. If the disease is discovered—and it will be, almost universally, in such cases as we have mentioned—the first thing the breeder should do is to take care of and drive it away from his fowl premises.

CURE FOR CANKER.

Take the fowl affected and scrape off the canker, if the blood starts it will do no harm. After the scab has all been removed, place on the sore some fine table salt, or pulverized burned alum or flour of sulphur. Make a pill of one-fourth assafoetida and



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baking soda, in which add a little pulverized mandrake root; make four or six pills about the size of a marble. Continue removing scab as long as it accumulates each day, and give pills night and morning with applications of salt, sulphur or alum.

TYPICAL TRIMMED HEADS.



Pit Trim.



Exhibition Trim.

DUBBING.

WITHOUT AN ASSISTANT.

BY W. B. RAGSDALE.

Provide yourself with a piece of cloth of some description, anything that is handy; spread it out on the floor or ground, and place the stag on his breast with his feet straight out behind him across the end of the cloth with his head even with the edge, and roll him up tightly; be sure the wings, legs and feathers are all in proper position so as not to hurt him; he then can not flutter or do anything but move his head. Now sit down and lay him across your lap on his side, head to the left and back to you, take his head in the hollow of your left hand so that with the fingers you can handle his gills. Place the scissors along the under side of the top of right gill, from the throat to the beak, and with the fingers pull the gill out and downward till it is so that you can cut it entirely off at one stroke; now take under gill and pull outward and up till you can do the same

thing, then take scissors and pinch earlobes together until you can cut as much of them off as necessary at one stroke. Place the chicken between your knees with his head toward the left, take his head in your left hand and cut the comb in any shape you like, cutting always from behind. I never cut a comb off close. When done drop him down and let him pick up his comb and gills and he is all right. I never put anything on the cuts, for being cut with scissors they bleed but very little. I always use my round-pointed pocket scissors. By this method you can trim more in a little while than you can raise in a year, and never get any blood on you except on your hands. I notice in nearly all the articles in reference to this that you must begin at the beak. I can not commence there and handle the head well, for it changes the position entirely, and is not near so quickly done.

HOW THE STAG IS DUBBED.

BY ALEX. W. CUMMINGS.

Here is my way to dub a game stag: In the first place to catch him—I set down and place the stag between my knees with head from me; then with left hand I take hold of the neck close to the head, with scissors (made especially for dubbing) in right hand I begin to cut the comb from behind and at one clip, I cut off smooth to front; then I take the stag under the left arm with head in front and hold by the neck.

close to head with the left hand; then with bent point scissors I commence at the back part of the right wattle and at one clip I cut smooth from one end to the other. Then I open the scissors just as wide at the most convex part as the earlobe is, and place gently down on each side of the earlobe and at one clip take off smooth. Then I place the stag between my knees with beak towards me and hold the head with the left hand, and with convex point begin at the front part of the left wattle and at one clip take off the left earlobe, and the job is done. If the stag bleeds too much I rub some soot on parts that are fresh cut.

BY H. P. CLARKE.

Take the bird in your hands, fold his wings close to his body, stretch his legs out straight and backward, then wrap an old cloth or bag tight around him, only leaving his head sticking out at one end of the roll; this is to keep him quiet so that he can not kick, and at the same time it prevents blood from getting on the operator's clothes.

Sit down on a low bench or stool, and take the bird in your lap, holding his body firmly between your knees. Place your left thumb back of the comb, and run your fore-finger through the bird's mouth, so that you can hold his head firmly. Stretch the bird's neck out to the left; have an assistant stretch out the right wattle, then with a strong and

sharp pair of scissors cut the wattle off up to the line of hair-like feathers of the face and throat. Let the assistant take hold of the right earlobe and stretch it out perpendicularly or at right angles to the direction of the beak, then with one up-cut take off the earlobe close to the head. Now reversing your hold on the bird's head, placing your thumb in his mouth and your fore-finger back of the comb, take off the left wattle and earlobe in the same manner as the right. Now change to your first hold and cut the comb off close to the head.

RULES FOR DUBBING.

BY TRUE EYE.

First get something to set on—a nail keg or chair—then have on hand an old coat, bag or piece of an old rag; catch your stag, wrap one of these articles mentioned around his body, leaving out his head. Have a straight pair of stout shears—do not use crooked shears, for you may gouge out a piece unnecessarily and injure. With the ends of bag or whatever you may use have wrapped each side of him to the feet; then set down, place the stag's feet between your knees, place the first finger of your left hand in his mouth and thumb of left hand back of his head; now you have him where he can not use his wings and you can hold him as if he were in a vice without damage to bird. Place the shears that you now have in the right hand, the lower blade

just close up to where the under side of the wattle connects on the neck and press the upper blade close to his head, or rather face, and follow the upper line of the wattle where it connects on his face; if any be left trim off to make a smooth job. Now reverse him, head toward you with his legs between the knees; place the thumb of the left hand in his mouth with fore-finger back of his head, commencing by placing the shears as for the other, and always commence to cut from the earlobe to the bill. Now reverse him, head from you; place the left hand finger in his mouth and the thumb of the same hand back of his head. Now look out—this hurts very much, and if there is any getting away he will. Place the shears at the end of the comb at his nostrils, cut up, leaving it in the shape of a “V;” this gives him a rather high comb, which is best for a pit bird. For show birds cut as close as you have a desire. If after cutting the comb it projects too far back from the head cut off to suit taste. Some cut off only the wattles at one time, the comb at another. There is no need of putting anything on after cutting, unless you wish to rub on a little grease of any kind; salt or fresh lard will do.

TESTING GAMES.

Nearly every breeder of Game Fowl has his own peculiar notion as to the best method of testing pit fowl, and naturally everyone believes his method is the best. Well, it is perhaps as well so, but we are satisfied of one thing concerning testing, and that is it is quite often carried to an extreme. Needless cruelty is used to prove a bird game. For example of what use is it to cut a bird to-day with short gaff, and then to-morrow put him through the ordeal again—crippled, stiff and sore—and continue to repeat the dose, day after day, as is often done until death relieves the poor bird from his misery? If this was necessary in order to prove the courage of a bird it would be a different matter, but we fail to see why it is.

Be sure the bird to be tested is in perfect health, and never test one that is in any way "off." If you do you are likely to make allowances for his condition, and should he fail to stay you are as much in the dark as ever. Heel a cock, heavier than the stag,

with one and one-half or two inch heels; set them wide; let him cut the stag until he can no longer rise; draw the stag, and as soon as he recovers set him down again, and so continue to draw him and set him down for one hour; then put him away for an hour or two, and then set him down and let him take his death. If he shows no disposition to run away or quit, he is a game bird, and you can depend on his brother's staying every time. If you set the steels on the cock wide enough, he is not likely to give the stag his death during the test of one hour. But when a stag is required to face the steels when weary and hopeless, being taken up and then required to face it again and again, if he has any dirt in him he will turn tail and sing lustily.



HEELING.

RULES FOR HEELING.

BY W. A. E.

In the first place you want to find out how your cock handles his legs; some cocks strike higher with the left leg than the right, although the majority of cocks bring the right leg the highest. The easiest way to find how a cock strikes is to toss him on a bed of straw, or on the head of a barrel with a cushion on it, when you can easily see which foot he brings nearest to his head. After you have found this out, let your fowl be held by a competent person so the inside of the leg is perfectly level. Cover the spur with a piece of damp kid or chamois skin so the socket of the gaffle fits tightly; also take a strip of chamois and wind around the leg on both sides of the spur. Then take your thumb and fore-finger and work the back toe of the fowl; while doing this you will see the leader of the leg rise and fall at the upper joint. Now bear in mind which leg he brought up near his head, and set the gaff on a line with the

outside of the leader at the upper joint of the leg, and the other gaff you will set on a line with the inside of the leader. Be careful not to set the spur too far in, as it will cause the cock to cut himself (although this is done oftener by setting the wrong heel to the inside of the leader). When you have the gaffle arranged properly, tie it with good waxed ends, but not so tight as to cramp the legs or toes of the fowl; it is also a good idea to set the cock on a broomstick to see whether he can clasp it after the gaffs are tied on. Wet your finger and pull the toes of the cock so that they may not be cramped.

TO HEEL A COCK.

BY W. B. RAGSDALE.

Stir up an old pair of kid gloves, cut into strips about a quarter of an inch wide and as long as you can get them without seams. Get a ball of Barbour's show thread No. 10, or any other brand or size—I use that because I have it and the size suits me—make your strings of six strands, and wax as flat as you can with beeswax, do not twist them together. Slip the gaff over the spur and mark it a fraction above; saw them off, and you are ready for business. Now understand that I never tied on a pair of heels shorter than two and one-fourth inches, and do not claim to be able to set them to cut anywhere I want to, but to make the same cock do as much execution with the same heels as any one else. A

gaff properly made and leathered has the right set up and out, and all you have to do is to put it down fair and square on the leg, pack it and tie it right, and say that we are using regulation or old-fashioned singletons. Get two chairs, use a log, or anything that will seat you and your holder on a level, facing each other. Have your cock held in as comfortable a position as possible, so as to have him secure, and have the leg on the level. Try the gaff over the nub to see about how much packing is necessary; if the nub is small wind a piece of the kid around it tightly and smoothly, and then cross a couple or more pieces on it; if large and nearly fills the socket, use only cross pieces—enough so that when pressed down to its place the socket will be perfectly full, solid and firm. Now raise the foot and lower the eye so that you can sight exactly the location of the point. I always direct mine to the centre of the muscle at the knee joint, which you can see plainly by moving the back toe a time or two; when you have that to suit you wrap the leathers smoothly and closely around the leg, and have the assistant place his finger on the lap and you are ready to tie it. Take two turns above the socket and tie a hard knot; bring the ends back toward you, one on each side, and tie half a knot behind the socket, take one turn, bring the ends up and loop each one over the blade and back, bring ends around underneath and up to the top again, once around, tie underneath or outside of

leg. This gives you three rounds above, two at the bottom and one in the centre of the leather, and the loops over the blades prevent any possibility of shifting. A gaff tied in this manner is as solid after a long fight as if it had grown.

In tying use each hand the same; always get centre of string across the top of the leather so that to make a round you have only to bring both ends down and swap, to make another, both up and swap. Always dampen your kid with your mouth, as spittle makes it stick and pack better than if wet with clear cold water. When done, put him on his feet and keep him moving till ready to pit, so that he will not cramp any in the least. Never tie very light at the bottom or next to the foot; always have your cross pieces just long enough to cross the nub and reach the base of it, as the leg does not need any packing, only the spur. The quickest and easiest way of making strings for a pair of cocks is to take the end of the thread between your thumb and fore-finger, bring it over around your elbow up through the next finger space, then the next, then the next and back to the thumb and fore-finger; this gives you four complete rounds, and repeat as many times as you want strands in your string; cut at thumb and fore-finger, straighten out and wax, and it is just long enough to double twice and cut into four strings.

The following are the rules on heeling laid down by the late Dr. Cooper, and are very good for what they are intended—one and one-fourth inch heel:

“Let your fowl be held by a competent person; let him be held so that the inside of the leg is perfectly level. Cover the spur with a piece of damp kid—an old kid glove cut up makes excellent leathers—so as to get the socket of the gaffle to fit tightly, and to prevent its turning or shifting. Then take your thumb and fore-finger and work the back toe of the cock. While doing this you will see the leader of the leg rise and fall at the upper joint. You will set the right gaffle on a line with the outside of the leader, at the upper joint of the leg; and the left gaffle you will set on a line with the inside of the leader, at the upper joint. Be careful not to set the spur too far in, as it would cause the cock to cut himself. When you have the gaffle arranged properly, tie it with good wax ends, but not so tight as to cramp the legs or toes of the fowl. After the gaffs are tied on, wet your fingers and pull the cock's toes so that they may not be cramped.”

CONDITIONING.

FEEDING FOR THE PIT.

BY HOT SPUR.

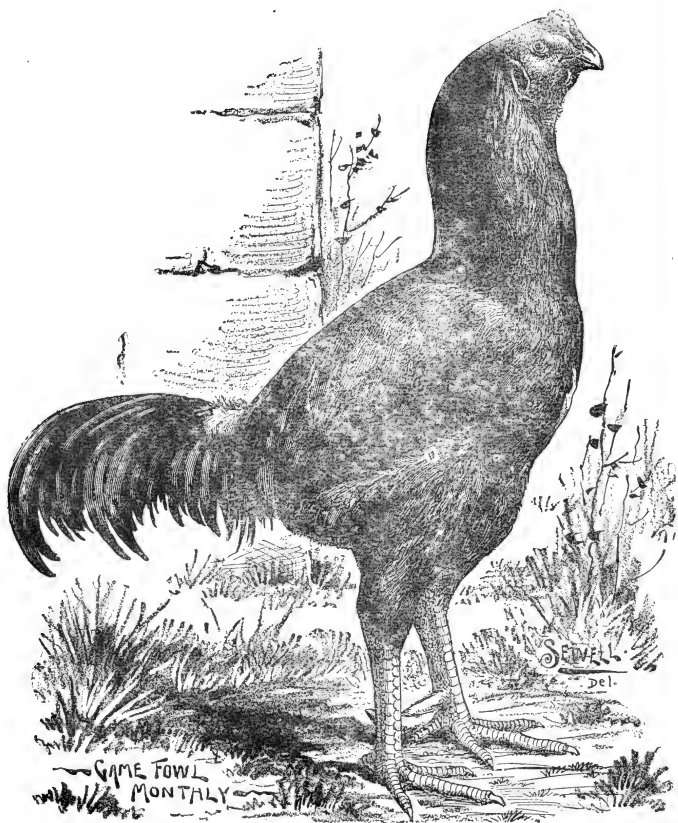
I herein give my personal experience in feeding for the pit. I shall give a plain statement of the preparing for battle. I have raised Games for twenty-seven years and my method is as follows:

I bring them in off the walks, examine them carefully for fat and vermin. If lousy, rub the neck and under the wings good with kerosene; if roup or running at the nose, sponge the head well with warm water and castile soap, then apply some coal oil; two applications will generally suffice. Place them in coops or boxes 2x3 feet with some clean, dry straw with a yoke slide front for a door up and down; this will be plenty of room for air and not too warm in winter. I hunt up some old tin cans and cut them in two, leaving a handle or crook so as to fit over the cross piece at the bottom of the slide door, and the fowl will have no trouble in finding his food. I sometimes put a little carbolic acid in each, then cleanse

with hot soap suds; this makes them perfectly cleansed as well as disinfected. This done I am ready for weighing, being careful to observe the fat ones from those in good flesh, and otherwise; seldom do I physic; the fat in a fowl will soon be detected by flirting him a few minutes. For the benefit of amateurs let me say you will find nine of every twelve cocks poor instead of real fat, and the old method of reducing instead of strengthening I would warn you against. I find a cock becomes weary and tired in three or four minutes flirting. I watch him daily and feed him like the rest, after the first two days; then if he does not improve I reject him.

Having all the weights the first day I mark on the front of each coop, and note the increase and decrease of each bird for the first four days. A bird weighing 6 3-4 pounds when brought in will in condition weigh 5-14 or 6 pounds. The first twenty-four hours I feed nothing, but give plenty of pure water; the second day I flirt my birds five minutes each and give stale light bread after urinating on it or saturate with cider vinegar, either will act as a laxative to him; the same at night with plenty of water. The third day I flirt my birds ten minutes, morning and night, and feed by lamplight if the fighting is to be at night; in the morning a handful of pearl barley, after which a few swallows of water; in the evening repeat the barley feed. The fourth day I weigh the birds, clean out the coops and again mark their re-

spective weights. From this to the day of the battle, which is the ninth or thirteenth day, they will gain some unless marked two or three times in the twenty-four hours; if all is right I work them seven minutes; if any sulkers, or have any doubts of one as a sparrer, I don the muffs and spar them till they are well fagged; replace them in the coops and feed a handful of cracked wheat and flint hominy—the dryest and oldest to be had. One hour after this I give six or seven swallows of water to each, and repeat in the evening. The fifth day the same process is gone through, and the same the sixth day, except I give well baked corn bread with milk enough to moisten, only in the morning, and seven or eight swallows of water at night. The seventh day clean out the coops; let one cock out in the room one or two hours at a time to get gravel and scratch himself, until all have been served alike, which you will find greatly refreshes them. Now we come to the eighth day—clean the coops, flirt the birds five minutes each, note their weights again, and if any flame of discrepancy exists reject the fowl; replace clean straw and feed each a hard-boiled egg cut fine with a little cayenne pepper sprinkled on it. One hour after give seven or eight swallows of water to each; at noon wash the head, legs and wattles with luke warm water—a little castile soap will not hurt; in the evening feed cracked corn and barley, one tablespoonful, a little water; no flirting or exercise after



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the morning of the eighth day. They will now need rest for twenty-four hours. The ninth day they will do to pit; if not, feed and work as before; no exercise. The tenth or fighting day feed sparingly of a white of hard boiled egg, a little gunpowder on it cut fine, four or five swallows of water; sponge the head good with warm water and brandy; if to fight at night feed in the middle of the afternoon and give about three swallows of water and one or two dry crackers; continue the same up to the thirteenth day if desired. Stags or fowls under one year old (I say this for amateurs) require a longer time than cocks—from thirteen to fifteen days, being five days longer, as a rule.

Now your fowls are ready to fight for your money, and if they do not win it is not because they had not the proper training and care or are out of condition. With good heeling and handling I have always got my share of the money; but let me say before I make my bow that this is my first or maiden effort in prize essay writing—and if I, an old man, should beat the boys and get the heels, what a laugh it will be on them.

There are three or four points of advantage in my feeding:—one is there is no complication, nothing hard to understand—no physiquing or purging the cocks, no steaming or sweating as of old, nothing to weaken or reduce the muscular parts of birds, no mysterious mixtures of cock bread as it is called, and

nothing but what an amateur can see is plain and simple. This bothers them more than all else about cocking.

PRIZE METHOD OF FEEDING.

BY W. B. RAGSDALE.

Of course all the old cockers have their own tried and established ways of doing this and will hold to them, yet this may interest them to read and comment on. There can be no rigid set of rules governing all cases, and the greatest assistant you can possibly have around your coops is good common sense. If you have cocks by the hundred you can pick out a few of them almost exactly in the same flesh and can treat them all alike, and even then you can see some difference in the strength and endurance of them; but where you have only a few and would like to take them all up and feed and fight you want a set of rules governing your case. There are scores of methods used, all of them having good points, but the greatest objection I find to them is that they require that the keeper have too much of a variety in the food. In a great many cases are too long; fact is, are not simple enough for a new hand. As we can not help the old and experienced we should extend a helping hand to the beginner.

First get ready to take up your cocks, which we take for granted you do in the daytime. Make your coops to suit yourself, only have them airy and

roomy; tack on the door of each coop a tag to keep the run of your work on. Have plenty of clean straw on hand and a pair of scales; provide yourself with a set of muffs, some nice clean wheat, pearl hominy and barley if convenient; if not it does not matter much; a feed cup for each stall—one cup will do to water all; a few fresh eggs, some oat meal, and you are ready to take up your cocks.

Now sit down and study the subject over. The object of keeping your cocks is to do away with all surplus fat, to fight them at actual bone and muscle weight; to add to their wind and endurance. Your cock in condition at five pounds fighting a fat one weighing exactly the same has an advantage of more than double the amount you have reduced yours after the first two or three minutes, for the fat bird heats inwardly, his breath gets short and he tires, and unless he has gained some advantage at the start is soon at the mercy of his opponent, who can hammer away at him for an hour or longer. Take up your cocks in the afternoon, weigh each one, examine each critically, put each weight on tag of his coop, also make note of condition of each and what you want to do. Fat ones should lose from eight to twelve ounces according to size; cocks in moderate flesh from three to six ounces, and those that are thin should gain a little. Give each all the water he will drink, but no feed at all. Early in the morning the second day tie on the muffs and spar them to-

gether till they are tired. After allowing them to rest and cool off give the fat cock a pill of ten grains each of cream tartar and jalap, those in moderate flesh a full feed of fermented wheat (made by pouring boiling water over night before and standing all night), which is very laxative, but do not purge like the physic, and the thin cock feed of fermented and sound wheat mixed—will sharpen their appetite wonderfully; about three swallows of water; at noon a small feed of the same to all but the fat ones; a little water all around; no exercise; in the evening give them all a good feed of dry light bread crumbs moistened with hot water; mix a trifle of sugar with it. This carries us to the third day—Weigh each cock, make note of weight, clean out coops and hand spar them; wash head and feet good, and give them all a feed of wheat, hominy and barley with half the white of a boiled egg chopped up with it. Continue this for ten days, or rather the balance of the ten days, and you will find your cocks able to fight long, hard battles.

NOTES.

Always give clean fresh water; wash your food before giving it; let your scales determine the size of feeds, so you see you must be careful in weighing; always look at the cocks on their walks yourself before taking them up. Be as regular in your exercise and feeding as possible; always exercise before feeding; by the time you flirt the last one the first will

do to feed. Begin at say twenty-five flirts and increase a little daily; never tire them much after the morning of the second day, when you muff them, and do not let them together any more. If your cocks are bad to fight you, have a pair of thick soft gloves and when one bites you hold perfectly still and talk and cluck to him till he turns loose and he will soon see what you want; hold him so he can not strike you. You must exercise patience the first few days; after that they will take their handling as a matter of course and talk to you through it all. Remember that while you can physic a cock—make him mighty sick and apparently he will be as well as ever in two days, that exercise is better than physic, and work and fermented wheat will do for all except the very fat ones.

For hand sparring as much preparation as is necessary is a coffee sack with a little straw in it on the head of a barrel placed close up in the corner of the room; you see he is hemmed in by the two walls of the room and you take up the other side, so if he is a wild cock he can not get away. Be careful not to squeeze or press the cock when flirting—by some practice you will get the knack of it. Some claim that eight days are enough and some that it can not be done in less than twenty-one. The best winded cock I have seen fight in many a day was kept ten days on this plan. After the second day feed, water and exercise three times per day, and be sure

and feed light on day of fight. Be careful not to feed more than they can rid their crop of between times.

FEEDING COCKS FOR THE PIT.

BY F. A. GARBUTT.

Feeding as generally understood includes all of the manipulation of fowl in preparing for the pit, from the time of taking off the walk. Perhaps there is nothing relating to cocking on which there is more diversity of opinion. All aim at the same result, namely: having the fowl in the best possible condition at the time of contest; but how different are the methods pursued. How scientifically do some treat their fowl and how incongruously do others dose them. It is time, however, that science be taken more into consideration and the blindfold practice of following rules be discontinued. No one can follow the directions of another with equal success without using his own judgment, and the moment he does this he notices changes he would make. Indeed if he possesses a general experience as a cocker he could systemize his ideas and the result would be something probably far better for his own personal needs. The only use, therefore, of a paper on feeding is to give general ideas, as the great diversity of circumstances prevents any fixed rates.

WHAT IS GOOD CONDITION?

A cock to be in good condition must be at the cor-

rect weight. That is, he must have no fat or superfluous flesh on him. This of course depends on the judgment of the feeder. The fowl must be strong and hard without being stiffened or having his quickness in any way impaired. His plumage should be in the best condition, as this will be found to affect his spirits more or less. A cock when not in good hard feather will generally fight slow. The fat should be almost entirely removed from his intestines by physic and exercise making him more rapid and enduring as well as lighter. The spirit too should be taken into consideration, as nothing affects the fighting more. He should be slightly reduced below his fighting weight and then allowed to come up, for when a cock is coming up he is full of vigor and vim and if fought just as he gets to the top and before he begins to deteriorate he will not be at his best. It is impossible to hold a cock at this point, however, and it is more than folly to fight a hard fight while going down.

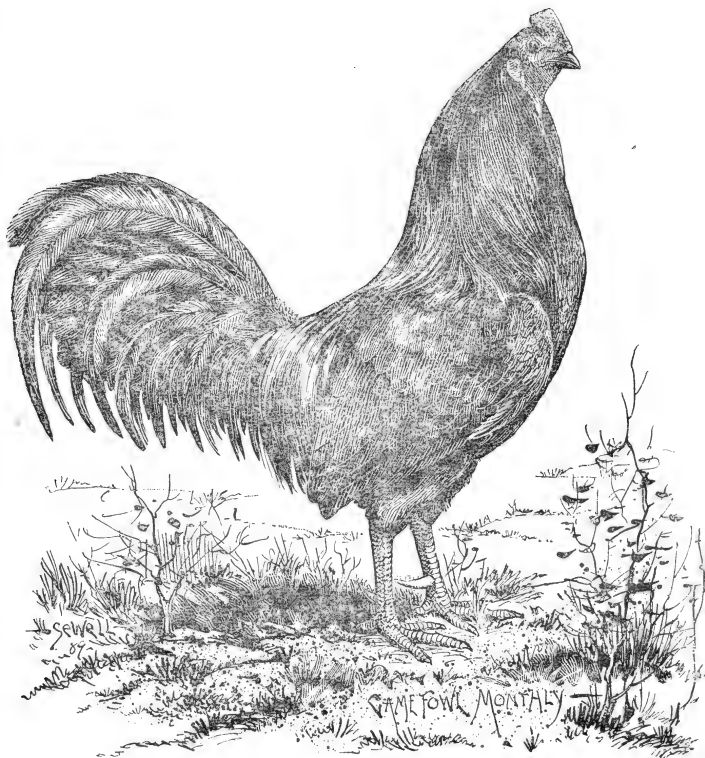
PHYSIC AND PHYSICING.

At the beginning of conditioning a physic is usually given to work off the surplus fat around the intestines, and to cause the cock to throw his food regularly. Many substances are in use, the amount being determined best by experience and the manner by individual preference. What will weaken one cock will scarcely affect another. Jalap, cream tartar, rhubarb, epsom salts and magnesia have been

used extensively; some even prefer castor oil. The following is a recipe for which the writer once gave ten dollars. It is very good and well worth the money, but must be varied to suit the different cocks: Coop the cock off the walk and give nothing but pure water for twenty-four hours. Then feed bread and milk with about one teaspoonful of cream tartar sweetened with white sugar to take away the sour taste of the cream tartar. In twelve hours feed boiled rice and molasses with two teaspoonsful of magnesia. There are no haphazard ingredients in this recipe, and in using no part should be left out. The whole when used with judgment forms a very convenient, safe and thorough physic, if the drugs employed are pure. For a stag the cream tartar should be omitted. In the long run much harm is done by the injudicious use of physic, and a man will do better never to physic at all unless he can do so understandingly.

FEEDS AND FEEDING.

Feeds are of two classes—those producing mainly fat and those producing muscle. All substances containing much starch or sugar belong to the former and are to be avoided, as is also everything heating or stimulating. Fresh pure water is the best drink, and I prefer to keep it before my birds at all times—it should be changed often. There is much difference of opinion here, however, many preferring in some way to limit the supply of water. In feeding,



a fowl should have a variety and should never be forced to eat anything which he shows no liking for. Towards the last anything which will tend to physic is to be avoided. For feeding, clean cracked corn is good. I buy what is known as hominy, which is prepared for table use and contains no impurities. Wheat when of good quality makes a valuable change as also does barley. Some even make a steady diet of the former. Oats are not raised out west and I have never had the opportunity to use it; but would not deem it good for warm climates. Egg, either white or yolk, raw or boiled, forms a valuable and strengthening change, although the boiled yolk has a tendency to bind. Dry bread at least soaked in egg is excellent. If crackers are used they should not be soda crackers, but should be what is known as butter crackers. The parching of all grains is claimed as an advantage by some—for what reason it is not known. A little well-cooked meat about the middle of feeding is good, and some chipped onions with it is an excellent tonic—which by the way differs from anything stimulating, in that one tones up the system while the other excites it. A little experience will show which food tends to increase and which to decrease flesh. A chicken's crop should be empty at feeding, but must not be left so any length of time, neither should they be stuffed full at a feeding. The cock must be handled and judgment exercised. Avoid all fancy messes and stick to whole-

some foods. Climate and season should play an important part. Have an accurate pair of scales and weigh often.

EXERCISE.

Exercises of many different kinds and plays are an important part. Hand tossing and walking are good if carefully performed. A little rough handling will do much damage. Hand-sparring with a live or stuffed cock is much liked by many, but I think it makes a cock too wary for the gaffs. It might do for a slasher, and should be performed on a mattress or a lawn. Sparring with another cock should always be done with muffles, and when indulged in occasionally it wakes a cock up and makes him get down to his work. Carried to excess it will strain the muscles and make the fowl fight slow. Swinging on a large rope or swing of any kind is without exception the meanest kind of work I ever tried, although many with excellent reputations hold it in high repute and attribute much of their success to its use. Walking in the yard followed by an attendant is very good, and possesses the advantage of giving the fowl fresh air and gravel—which last, by the way, will not meet with the approbation of all. Some like their cocks as “clean as a whistle” when they go into the pit, and not “half full of dirt” as they term it. It is a matter for one’s own judgment. Leg work should be given in abundance, as it is the legs which do most of the work, and a

cock must be strong to hit hard in the last of a battle. Did any of the readers of this ever have a sparring match? If so, how did their arms feel after the second or third round, and how hard a blow would they then strike? Now a cock has to stand on his legs and strike with them too, besides doing much more moving. In walking in the yard, which is one of my favorite exercises, I use leg weights of about one-quarter ounce each, with good results.

GENERAL REMARKS.

The time occupied depends on circumstances; from eight to fourteen days is about right. Stags require slight, if any, physic, and much less work; also less time, as they are more petful under cooping and do not harden like a cock. Their wind is better as a rule, and they are not so fat; work makes them sore. Never exhaust a cock; it does more harm than can be repaired in many a long day. Compare the treatment of the race-horse and pugilist with that of the game cock, making allowance when comparing food for the fact that they are respectfully herbivorous, omnivorous and granivorous—big words truly, but no small ones will express the difference. The coop should be as large as possible; a box stall is the best thing I know of. Ventilation must be good and the coops should be warm in winter and cool in summer. Handle your fowls so that they will take to you as their natural friend and ally. Avoid doses and give them nothing you would not take yourself. Let

common sense enter largely in everything you do, and do nothing which you do not fully understand the purpose and effect of. No one should cock for profit; they are sure to get their nerve broken and quit; they must make their start, at least, from motive of pleasure. In closing I will say everyone, myself included, have methods of handling fowl which they deem well nigh perfect, and of which they could not be induced to divulge the fine points; perhaps it is just as well for the community at large that they can not; at any rate anyone can learn more, have better success and more enjoyment by practicing and experimenting for himself. The ideas which I have tried to set forth are good as far as they go, and they go as far as my poor pen can make them on paper. If I have succeeded in benefiting anyone or in awakening thought or discussion on this subject I shall feel amply repaid for the time spent in writing. All criticisms made in a gentlemanly spirit will be thankfully received, as I well know that many persons must possess different ideas.

FEEDING COCKS FOR THE PIT.

BY GEO. W. HIGGINBOTHAM.

The first thing to be provided is such a room as will admit of light and air. The next care is to provide such a coop as a cock can live in, which should be two and one-half by three feet and three feet high. Then provide a roost between the bottom

and top; so put it that the feeder can take it down or put it up. Place the coops about three feet off the ground; under each place a barrel with a little straw in it. Now you are ready for feeding.

The first day cut the tail and wings and saw off the spurs; leave the spurs about one-fourth of an inch long, so they will come a little ways through the socket. Put your cocks up in the evening, weigh them and mark their weights down on each coop; late in the evening give all of them a sparring, place in the barrels, and cover warm till next morning.

The second day, early in the morning, take them from the barrels and put them in their coops, then give each of them five grains of cream tartar with butter; in a few minutes give them a sparring and before returning them to their pen bathe their heads with vinegar and brandy. In the evening a feed of bread and water with a little sugar candy—a light feed: clean the pen from the effects of the physic, wash the feet and wipe dry. They must stay in their tubs this night and be kept warm and not heated.

The third morning take them out of their tubs and put them in their coops; give each of them a good feed of boiled milk and warm rice; in the evening give them all moderate exercise by flirting; then give a feed of cracked corn wet with milk. Put them in barrels this night; keep warm; leave

hole for air.

The fourth day, in the morning take them out of the tubs and put them in coops; give three times this—oatmeal and cracked corn—three swallows of water in the morning and the same in the evening. They may stay in coops this night; take the roosts down and keep warm with plenty of straw in the coop.

The fifth day, in the morning clean the pen, wash the bird's feet and face and wipe dry; give a feed of cock-bread and the white of a hard boiled egg; in the evening corn and barley mixed. Give water and skimmed milk thrice this day. They may go on their roosts this night.

The sixth day feed three times with scaled barley and rice; give water three times this day, three swallows each time. Leave in coops this time, but roosts must be taken down.

The seventh day, in the morning give oat bread; at twelve give white of a hard boiled egg; in the evening give exercise by flirting. Their drink must be cool spring water three times this day, not more than three dips at a drink. They may go on their roosts this night.

The eighth day, in the morning feed all the cocks with oat bread and scalded barley; at twelve give feeding of oat bread and white of egg, cool water twice; in the evening pit all the cocks; after the sparring bathe their heads and legs with vinegar

and brandy and wipe dry. Give feed of cracked corn and put in barrels this night.

The ninth morning give the cock bread and barley; at twelve give white of an egg; in the evening give milk and rice boiled and warm; in the morning and at noon give cool barley water; flirt in the evening. They may go on their roosts this night.

The tenth day feed all the cocks with oat bread and cracked corn; in the evening feed all with hemp seed and white of an egg, water twice, three swallows each time; this evening wash the face and feet and wipe dry; give a little exercise but not enough to make sore. They must go in their tubs this night and be kept warm.

The eleventh morning, or day for fight, take them out of the barrel, put in the coop, give a small feed of barley and a few swallows of water; they are now ready for battle.

REMARKS.

Take up your birds eleven days before battle.

Never give more than three or four swallows of water at a time, or never leave water in reach of birds at any time.

Do not over-feed; some cocks will require more than others.

Cock-bread is made of wheat flour with yeast, milk and eggs.

In no case give cocks cold water immediately after sparring.

Good bottomed fowls, well conditioned, with good heels, well put, will insure success.

MORRISON'S RULES FOR CONDITIONING.

First catch up all the cocks that are to be conditioned, weigh each one and mark weight on the coop, this being the night of the eleventh day before the battle.

First day, or tenth day before the battle, for breakfast feed all the cocks a mush made of stale light bread and sweet milk—the richer the milk the better; no water this day. For dinner and supper feed same as above.

Second day to all requiring reduction in flesh feed the same as on the first day, without any water. To all others feed what they will eat of common coarse hominy, with about four or five drops of barley water. The barley water is made by taking clear spring water and putting it on the stove until it comes to a boil, take it from the fire and put to it about one-half teacupful of pearl barley, let it steep until the water is cool, when it is ready for use.

Third day treat the same as second, except this day your cocks should be exercised by either flirting on a pile of straw or spar with muffs—not too long. I prefer the muffling, for it gives the same motion they get in battle, and the proper muscles are worked on.

For all succeeding days proceed same as above up

to the eighth day, when each of the cocks should have for breakfast the white of a raw egg; no water; for dinner and supper hominy and water as before; exercise freely on this day.

Ninth day feed as before, and let each of the cocks have about one hour's run in a large room, well ventilated; when his time is up, drop another one to him—both being muffed—and let them spar until tired; pick up the cock that has had the room and let the other one stay his time out.

Tenth day, or day for battle, do not feed such cocks as are to be shown in the main, but water and weigh them, mark the weight and description of the cock in your showing list so that you may be ready when called.

BROWN'S METHOD.

First be sure that the cocks or stags have been properly walked. See that they have not been bossed or knocked around by old birds or turkeys. Look to the combs and faces to see the condition of your birds; if they are bright rosy red they are in good condition.

Have the coops made three feet square, all tight excepting the front, which should be made of slats supplied with hinges and pad-lock. If you wish you can use a barrel for a coop and cut six inches out of one stave in the centre of the barrel; fill up six in-

ches with straw. If coops are used cover the bottom with clean straw free from must or mildew.

Have a portable roost in the coop that may be used if needed, in case any of the birds should physic out badly. Have each coop supplied with water and feeding cups.

When the cocks are taken up cut out the feathers around the vent and cut off the spurs. Wash head and feet with warm soft water and carbolic soap; rub dry with soft woolen rag; oil the face, feet and legs with sweet oil.

NOW BEGINS THE WORK.

First coop at night on the evening of the eleventh or twelfth day before the battle.

In the morning weigh all birds, marking weight on the coop. Handle each over very carefully; if any are fat give them more work than the thin ones; reduce their fat to muscle by means of work and exercise. For feed in the morning give good wheat bread soaked in milk; feed fat cocks less than those in fair condition. Never give more than they will eat up greedily—had better have them a little hungry than stuffed. For exercise have a table covered with thin, smooth-finished oilcloth, a little rounding in the centre; being filled under the cloth with straw. Place the bird on the table at one end, giving him a push from one end to the other—hustle him along—make him work. Give a good exercise in this way. If the bird refuses to exert himself by pushing side-

ways, put your hand on his rump, trot him forward, whirl him around and trot him back. At noon before feeding give a few swallows of water; bread and milk, as before. For evening feed the same; handle birds to get them over being afraid.

Second day, in the morning and for noon feed the same with same exercise, excepting fat cock double the exercise. At this time you must begin handling the birds by lamp light. After feeding a light supper of bread and milk, about one hour afterwards give exercise by flirting, which is done by taking the bird in both hands, head facing you, palm of hands on each side, thumbs resting up over the back, the two outside fingers of each hand resting under the breast; or reverse bird, head from you; turn his head towards the ground quickly, reverse, with head up. Continue this until he shows signs of being weary, then allow him to walk about the room while flirting another, and so continue until all have been dealt with. After the exercise feed lightly. See that all currents of air are shut off of the coops, not even a knot hole or crack must be left in the coops. Do the ventilating through the large room, which must be governed by the time of year and atmosphere outside.

Third day take each bird out, wash the head, feet and legs with castile soap-suds and rub dry and apply a little oil. Let each one exercise in the room while preparing the other. Feed for breakfast some

bits of well cooked meat, bread and pearled barley. Exercise on the table and allow each to fly at a light weight cock which you hold in your hand, dropping him down to the one on the floor and raising him again, which will bring the bird up trying to strike him; it gives good wing exercise. At noon give the same food with a good exercise; water before feeding with exception of a couple of dips of barley water after feeding each time from now on until the last day. At this time have ready fine gravel which place in each feed cup on the afternoon of that day. They must have gravel to grind their food.

Fourth day weigh birds, compare with first weight of each bird and mark down. If any fall away too fast increase feedings. For morning, bread soaked in milk and the white of a hard boiled egg; give a drink of water that has been taken from pearled barley after standing over night. At noon, boiled rice well seasoned with salt and pepper, barley water and the usual exercise. In the evening spar with the bird in your hand; feed pearled barley.

Fifth day feed the same as the fourth, and for exercise place the bird on your hand with a leg on each side and your other hand resting very lightly on the bird's back; raise the bird up quickly, dropping as quickly; this gives the wings and legs good exercise. With the four methods of exercise you will develop all that can be reached, and if properly

given has developed muscle of legs and wings, and increased lung powers.

Sixth day continue all the same with exception of bread. Use scalded barley for the morning feeding, rice for dinner and barley for supper.

Seventh day the same as the sixth, allowing water three times.

Eighth day feed bread and the white of a hard boiled egg for morning; at noon water and boiled rice; evening barley and water.

Ninth day, whites of boiled egg, bread, water; at noon boiled rice, water; evening barley and usual exercise.

Tenth day, or day of battle, give morning feeding of boiled egg and bread, on which drop several drops of brandy; several swallows of water. The same at noon if fight comes off in the evening.

TENNESSEE METHOD.

BY JOHN L. EICHBERG.

First see that your fowls are perfect in plumage, have good bright red comb and face, which denotes good health; a good appetite and passes good hard droppings and in good condition or good flesh.

Take up birds seven days before day of battle and spar, to see whether they are active, and on their feet. Then wash feet, legs and head of each in luke warm water; weigh each one and put in condition coop; have each coop absolutely clean, in it have

plenty of soft clean straw, with a little insect powder sprinkled on it. Then feed small amount of hominy and cracked corn. At noon feed a couple of tablespoonsful of barley. At night hand spar until the cocks begin to show signs of weariness then put in coop, without a roost; after becoming cooled off, give full feed of hominy and plenty of water to drink—water having been boiled and allowed to cool before using.

Second day, hand spar until each cock is nearly winded, weigh, wash feet and head and put in coop. After each has become cooled off feed barley or bread made of oat meal; a few sips of water; at night hand spar, clean out coop putting in fresh and clean straw; feed all each will eat of hominy and allow a few sips of water. Continue this until the day before the fight. On this day feed in the morning and spar with muffs at night. Should any cock on this day appear white or pale in the face discard them. Should any become dark in the face while sparring discard him.

Do not physic at all. The principal is, let your cocks eat heartily; if one will not eat one thing give him something else, but see that each eats well every day. A man can not work if he is starved, neither can a cock fight that is weakened by physic or lack of food; they should feel hard and corky. They must not be too thin, too fat is better than too poor for the latter causes weak constitution.

The day of the battle if they are to fight in the forenoon give about four hours or so before the fight 1-2 of a hard boiled egg and just before pitting give one sip of water. See that his feet and face are clean.

See that each cock is free from lice. The spurs are to be cut off of each cock the first day.

I do not believe in putting a poor cock in coop and bringing him up in weight, neither do I believe in reducing a real fat cock over eight ounces. Reduce the weight by hand sparring.

PRIZE METHOD OF FEEDING.

BY W. H. RIGHTMYER.

Weigh your cocks every day. A cock will probably come in off his walk fat and with a full crop; then give him no food for twenty-four hours. Cut off his spurs and weigh him; examine him closely—feet, bill, head, wings, etc., to see if he is in good form and health. Dust insect powder all through his feathers for lice; wash his head and feet with warm soft water and castile soap, with a soft sponge. Keep plenty of clean straw in the coop and shake it up twice a day and clean all droppings out, as some cocks will eat their own droppings. Give no physic; you can reduce your cocks fast enough without it, by work.

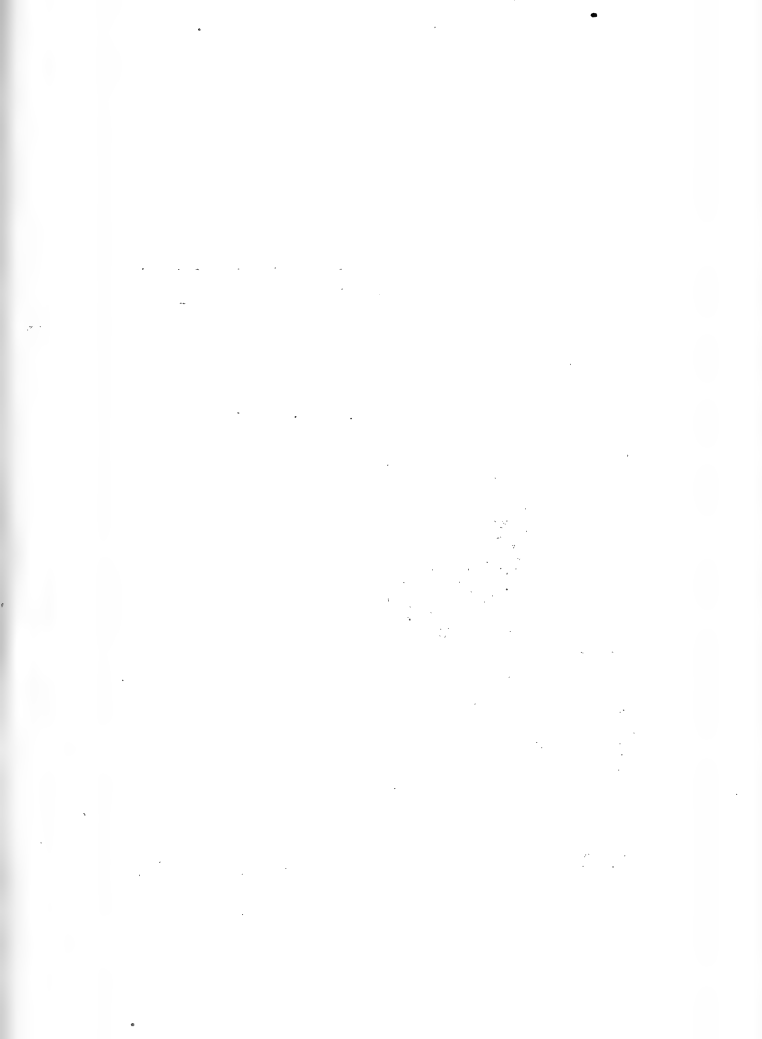
When a cock is on his walk he has a variety of food that he finds in his rambles, such as worms,

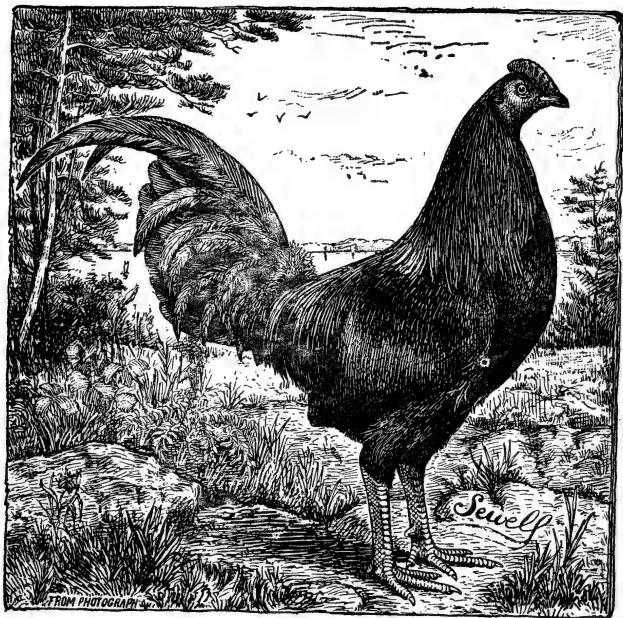
bugs and ants, besides grass seeds and insect eggs. Now, to keep him strong and vigorous, we must not deprive him of these things, or he will become pale and weak. To supply this food artificially, we must give him a little lean meat, both cooked and raw. This furnishes him with the insect food; for grass, we must give a little onion. Also eggs and different kinds of grain, such as corn, barley and oats; oat meal is too fattening.

THE FOOD, METHOD AND EXERCISE.

Take one or two boards eight feet long, cover with carpet that has been woven fine. This is to run the cock on. Take a box two feet square, set it against the wall, tack a thick cloth or bag over the top and stuff straw or fine hay under it, making it as soft as possible. This is to flirt the cock on.

I feed my cocks wet food and then I am not compelled to give water to cocks while feeding, so each cock gets the same amount of water every day, as some cocks will get twice as much at one dip as another will. I mix my food in this way:—Take hard, old dry corn and crack it; sift and blow out all the chaff and fine meal. Take one-half cracked corn, one-fourth whole oats and one-fourth barley. Mix the whites of hard boiled eggs—say for twenty cocks four or five eggs; twice a week I add a little stale bread, or crust of bread is best. Twice a week a little cayenne pepper and ground rheubarb, equal parts of each, just as if you were putting pepper on





FROM PHOTOGRAPH

your own food. It gives a cock an appetite and keeps him fresh. Give eggs every other day, alternate with lean beef; one day raw, the next day cooked; say give the cock a piece of meat as large as a hickory nut. Put the water on the food so that after standing ten minutes there will be a little water in the bottom of the vessel. Twice a week give a very small quantity of onion or sour apple—not enough to physic. The water you use must be boiled in an iron pot and then allowed to cool in an earthen vessel, and kept in a cool place. This kills all animal and vegetable nature in the water. At the latter part of feeding leave out a portion of the water and substitute Catawba wine. Give a cock only what food he will eat up clean, and be sure his crop is empty or nearly so before you feed him. Some cocks require more food than others, so you must watch them very close and govern feeding accordingly. Keep them a little hungry unless they reduce too fast; in that case give more food but only what they will digest; this you can tell by feeling of the crop at feeding time. If there is much in the crop do not give food at the feeding hour but a little water, extra, and put more pepper and rheubarb on the food for this cock. Your object is to get your birds to feel corky and light. Some will reduce more than others. Some reduce from six pounds down to five pounds six ounces; others will not, and many will reduce more. Do not cut a feather off of them until

ready to fight, as they are liable to catch cold. Spar your cocks but once. The time to do this is when you bring them off their walks, and if you have one that can not spar throw him out, but be careful that you do not throw out one that is too fat. For exercise flirt your cocks, first by tossing them up about eighteen inches in the air, holding the body with the head from you with both hands around the body over the wings, toss up and a little back; that is, as you toss raise the body backwards as if you were going to throw the cock on his rump; and by this he will endeavor to flop his wings and save himself. Continue this until he gets a little tired, then run him on the running board until he gets quite tired. Then rub him down—neck, breast, wings and legs. Do this until he cools off some, and put him in a tight coop or barrel and he will sweat out. Keep a few extra tight barrels for this purpose and remove the cool ones as you proceed, putting them in regular coops.

Take twelve or fifteen days in putting your birds in condition; dry out gradually and work to make their muscles hard and firm and to give wind. You must use judgment in feeding, exercising and reducing for the pit. Feed and exercise at the same hour every day and night. If you are going to fight at night use lamp light and do not darken the feeding-room during the day. Use your fowls carefully and avoid scaring them. If a cock comes in ugly,

picks and bites, do not fight him or jerk from him; he will get over this very soon. Feed twice a day, night and morning.

Two days before the fight wash the fowls with rum and water—heads, legs and feet; dry thoroughly and rub with vaseline. On the day of the fight feed nothing but corn and the whites of hard boiled eggs, in the morning only. After the cock is heeled for battle give two or three swallows of raw eggs and water with a little good brandy in it.

When they feel light and corky stop reducing them, but feed and exercise as usual to keep them hard and firm.

FLORIDA METHOD ON CONDITIONING.

BY J. S. P.

Here is my method of conditioning for the pit, and one I have from an old-time cocker—one out of the many I have seen who was the most successful in his fights.

Ten or twelve days is sufficient time to get cocks in condition to make a good battle.

Take up cocks from their walks, weigh them and cut off the spurs; tie on the muffs and spar all that match, so as to select nothing but the best fighters for your battles. Place them in the pit feeding coops on clean oat straw, with no food the first day, but a dose of castor oil and plenty of clean water.

For a morning meal give stale corn bread and

sweet milk; for a change give rice and milk, just enough to keep them hungry all the time, but be careful and not starve them. Hand spar them twice a day, and keep clean straw in their coops. For an evening meal give chopped corn with a change of wheat, rye or barley. Keep plenty of coarse grit, which of course is necessary to chop up their food. Wash head and feet two or three times during the time of conditioning; always wipe dry before placing in their coops. Turn each cock loose in a large room with an old setting hen, if possible. This will give him fine use of his legs, as he will be sure to chase her around the room. Let him run with the hen an hour; this will also give him courage.

On the morning before fighting give them a soft but light feeding of stale bread and sweet milk, but no water.

Now, my friends, if you have given your cocks plenty of work to do and have not starved them out, you have done all that nature requires, and your cocks can not help but make you a good battle.

MASSACHUSETTS METHOD.

BY W. M. S.

After taking the birds from the walk cut off the tail and heels. He is supposed to be sound and in good flesh. Place him in a box with clean straw, to be changed when foul. Feed nothing for twenty-four hours. Toss him twenty-five times, morning,

noon and night. At noon the second day exercise by flirting, tossing or running up and down an inclined board by the tail, or balancing on a spring-board, with both hands around the body. After each exercise rub down for ten minutes, with the hands moistened with water. Allow to cool off thirty minutes before feeding. Feed raw egg; no water. At noon exercise, feed baked beans, three dips of water. At night exercise and feed bread.

Third day, in the morning exercise, feed raw beef steak chopped fine. At noon exercise; feed barley. Exercise at night; feed baked pop-corn, three dips of water.

Fourth day, in the morning exercise, feed the white of hard boiled eggs, three dips of water. At noon exercise; feed barley, three dips of water. At night exercise; feed dry bread, three dips of water.

Fifth day, in the morning exercise, feed baked oats, three dips of water. Exercise at noon; feed raw beef chopped fine. At night exercise; feed bread soaked in boiled milk, no water.

Sixth day, in the morning exercise, feed raw egg, no water. At noon exercise; feed baked oats, three dips of water. Exercise at night; feed dry bread, three dips of water.

Seventh day, exercise in the morning, feed barley. At noon exercise; feed whites of hard boiled eggs, three dips of water. At night exercise; feed baked

pop-corn, three dips of water.

Eighth day, in the morning exercise and feed baked oats, three dips of water. At noon exercise; feed barley, three dips of water. At night exercise; feed dry bread, three dips of water.

Ninth day, in the morning exercise, feed barley, three dips of water. Exercise at noon; feed chopped raw steak, three dips of water. At night exercise; feed bread soaked in boiled milk, no water.

Tenth day, exercise in the morning, feed baked oats, three dips of water. At noon exercise and feed barley, three dips of water. Exercise at night, feed dry pop-corn, three dips of water.

Eleventh day, in the morning exercise and feed the whites of hard boiled eggs, three dips of water. Exercise at noon; feed barley, three dips of water. At night exercise; feed bread soaked in boiled milk, no water.

Twelfth and last day—no work this day; feed warm baked oats, three dips of water. At noon feed barley and give three dips of water. At night feed dry bread, three dips of water.

The day of fight give three dips of water. If a cock gets feverish during training a few drops of nitre in his water will reduce it.

Exercise to be of thirty minutes' duration three times a day. As soon as the cock has quit eating of the food remove it.

GEORGIA'S METHOD.

BY I. S. P.

I send my rules on conditioning cocks as my cousin, Thomas J. Bacon, of Johnston Station, Edgefield county, S. C., now sleeping his last long sleep, practiced with wonderful success and taught me.

I first build their coops six feet high and four feet square, close at bottom up to four feet; then nail on laths, leaving two inch spaces between each the remaining two feet. I place a good, large pole in for a roost, four feet from the ground.

I then bring the two-year-old cocks in from the walks, as he told me never to bet my money on any stag. Trim or clip the feathers, soak the legs up to the knees in a warm solution of turpentine and kerosene oil.

Make a box and place it in a box two inches larger; pack between with good horse dung, clean from straw or litter. Give the bird one tablespoonful of lard and a little salts; place the bird in the box and cover up except the head, allowing him to take a heavy sweat, and purge freely. Then remove and place him in the coop until morning, keeping a blanket over the coop to avoid his catching cold. In the morning I give a teaspoonful of burned loaf sugar soaked in good blackberry cordial.

Now my birds are ready to begin to condition. I give for food in the morning stale light bread soaked in milk; in the evening give cracked parched corn.

Birds are so arranged in coops that they are just out of each others reach, and they are continually trying to get to each other and flying up on the roost and jumping down. They should be muffed and shuffled good once each day just before feed time. I always weight my birds' legs with small sand bags when shuffling. I hand-spar two or three times each day by placing one hand between the bird's legs and the other on his back and quickly raise him up in the air and then as quickly down again, allowing him to kick and flap his wings, which he will greatly enjoy. Every other day give brown parched corn; put twenty drops of tincture of rosemary and same of brandy in a half cup of water; put in the corn and set on the stove to steep good; soak stale light bread in and give two tablespoonfuls to eat. Put one-half teaspoonful of good vinegar in a teaspoonful of water and give to the bird. Catch the bird firmly with both hands and sling. Wash his face and legs. I never give whole grains of corn to eat. I like wheat, doahra corn, German millet seed, chicken corn, barley soaked in brandy, water and a little asafoetida added. If the birds are too fat I place them in smaller coops and make each sleep on horse dung and give all the work they can stand, and they will come to hard-pan in quick order. I shuffle birds of as near weights as possible. I am very particular to clean each bird's lungs every morning. Catch the bird with both hands, stand him on a table, press





him down till his body touches the table, and work him back and forth for some time. Bathe the feet and legs often, pulling each toe well. Keep the bottom of the coop covered with sand to prevent corns on the feet. Keep the gravel box full.

I only let the birds have full daylight while shuffling, as my coops are built in a dark cock-house. After each shuffle grease the bird's head and face with vaseline, containing two or three drops of glycerine.

Just before fighting a bird I give him a good lemon cocktail. I never give birds water to drink. Sweet milk with a little brandy is my substitute. Birds need some rest and some sleep, and I see that they get both.

The rule was to put birds up fifteen days before the fight, but never fight a stale bird.

SAFE WALKS.

This has a wide meaning when you say "safe walks," which are very hard to procure for your stags. When your stags are eight or nine months old, dub them and place them out on as safe walks as you can secure; put them where they will be free from the company of turkeys, old cocks, geese and ducks. Allow them three or four months' freedom on the walk, and never bring them in for battle unless they show signs of perfect health, which is easily seen by the bright color of the face and head.

RECIPES.

CHICKEN CHOLERA:—Alum two ounces, resin two ounces, copperas two ounces, sulphur two ounces, cayenne pepper two ounces; pulverize, and then mix three tablespoonfuls of the powder with one quart of corn meal, and dampen for use. This quantity is sufficient for twelve chickens, and may be used either as a preventive or as a cure. For the first it should be given once or twice a week.

ANOTHER CHOLERA CURE:—After repeated experiments, hyposulphite of soda if given with one-half its weight of powdered mandrake root is the best remedy known. Give the mixture in teaspoonful doses twice a day, and begin its use as soon as the symptoms appear. When a fowl has the cholera it drinks ravenously, shows a nervous, anxious look, and the droppings are greenish in color, changing to white. In the first stages a few grains of copperas make an excellent stimulant, but the hyposulphite of soda should be relied upon.

GAPES:—As soon as you discover any signs among your chickens—which is a small red worm in the windpipe—give them camphor in their drinking vessels, strong enough to let them taste the camphor. If any get the disease badly before you discover it, force a pill of gum camphor about the size of a small pea down the windpipe, and the fumes of that dose will destroy the worm. No kind of worms can live

in camphor, hence camphor must be a powerful vermifuge.

A teaspoonful of turpentine in a pint of corn meal made into a dough with water, is one of the best remedies for gapes.

WEAK LEGS:—If your chicks are taken with weak legs and hobble about, give them a warm meal of cooked potatoes and meal or bran; in this mix plenty of black pepper and some brandy; after these continue supplying them with some scraps of meat, as this is what they lack to grow bone strength and take on muscle. If you feed ground bone there is no danger of this complaint, although it is not always handy to secure bone as desired.

ROUP:—One teaspoonful of each—tincture of iron, red pepper, ginger, saffron, chlorate of potash and powdered rhubarb; add to this one-fourth ounce of asafoetida and the same amount of hyposulphite of soda. Moisten, mix well, and make into a pill the size of a small marble; give one morning and night. Wash the nostrils and face with a solution of water with three drops of carbolic acid to one gill of water, having added one teaspoonful of table salt. Repeat wash each day.

A mixture of one part turpentine and one of castor oil is excellent for roup, canker and chicken pox. Give each fowl ten drops, and inject in the nostrils also.

The Douglas mixture is one pound of copperas,

one gill of sulphuric acid and two gallons of water. The acid may be left out if preferred. Put a teaspoonful into the drinking water whenever it is changed.

A good tonic for weak, debilitated fowls is three parts ground cinnamon, ten of ginger, one of gentian, one of saffron and ten of carbonate of iron.

For light cases of roup give a pill made of equal parts of cayenne pepper and prepared chalk.

PIP:—The pip is known by a fowl making a short sneeze or cough. In most cases there is no signs of a cold or running at the nose. It is one type of a cold affecting the bronchial tubes and causing a dry, horny substance or coating on the tongue. It is also liable from indigestion. Scrape the substance off the tongue; give one-half teaspoonful of wild cherry and tar, made by taking one ounce of cherry and adding three drops of pine tar; shake well; dose twice a day and fill the mouth with flour of sulphur.

CHICKEN POX:—This is a hard and troublesome disease, and the right and only way to cure it is by using the hatchet: yet many times a case may be cured by burning the white festers or ulcer with lunarcaustic, greasing with salve made of one ounce of vaseline and ten drops of carbolic acid; give the fowl powders or pills made of hyposulphite of soda one-fourth part, mandrake and dock root equal parts; pills size of a marble.

REMARKS.

Here let us say no man can become a cocker only by practice. We have given you the rules of the many and it all lies with you to put them practically in use. So here endith our first chapter.

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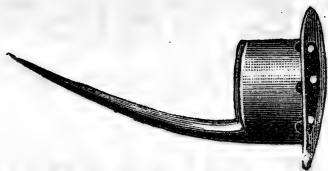
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
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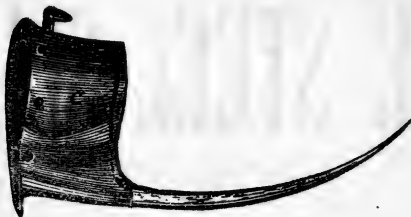
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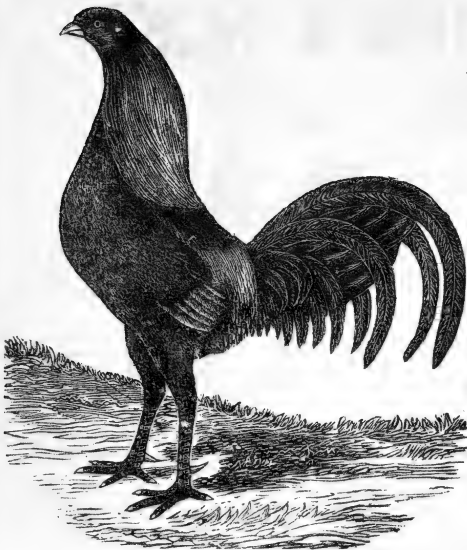
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